

伝説の勇者の伝説 9

完全無欠の王様

『^{イーノ・ドゥーエ}殲滅眼』という魔眼^{まがん}を持つ男^{おとこ}ティアーアとともに、魔眼保持者たちが隠れ棲む村へ向かうため、フェリスやシオンに何も告げずローランドを出国したライナ。だが、その村はガスターク^{ていこく}帝国の魔眼狩りによって滅ぼされてしまう。

行き場を無くしたライナだったが、フェリスの説得によって再びローランドに帰ってきた。そこで彼を待っていたのは相棒^{あいぼう}の執拗^{しつよう}なイジメと、親友が用意してくれた膨大な仕事の山。

悪魔王^{あくまおう}シオンによって不眠不休で働かされ死にそうになりながらも、ライナはひとときの平和に^{ひた}浸る。

しかし、水面下では様々な者たちの思惑^{おも}が複雑に絡まり合い、ライナを時代の渦^{うず}のなかに呑み込もうとしていた……。

アンチ・ヒロイック・サーガ、第九弾！

伝説の勇者の伝説 9

完全無欠の王様

鏡 貴也



イラスト とよた 瑣織



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武官弁護士エル・ウィン

ハタ迷惑な代理人

検事官はお年ごろ

被害者はどこにいる？

法廷の魔術師と呼ばれた男

執行猶予のパカンス

かぎりなくクロに近いグレー

迷宮からの脱出

やりきれない破滅への序章

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私が望んだ私の世界

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暴力のファーストコンタクト

魔力のバーゲンセール

魅力のオーバーヒート

死力のダンスパーティ

シオンの弱みを握れ！
ライナとフェリスは部屋中を物色しだした。

伝説の勇者の伝説 9

完全無欠の王様

「……いいだろう。闇と光。そして真実を見せよう。
世界の真実と……そして本当の敵の姿を」
その姿にフロワードは震えた……





魔法騎士団の戦闘服を着た黒マスクの人物は、
気色の悪い咆哮^{ほうこう}を上げると、いきなり襲い掛かってきた！





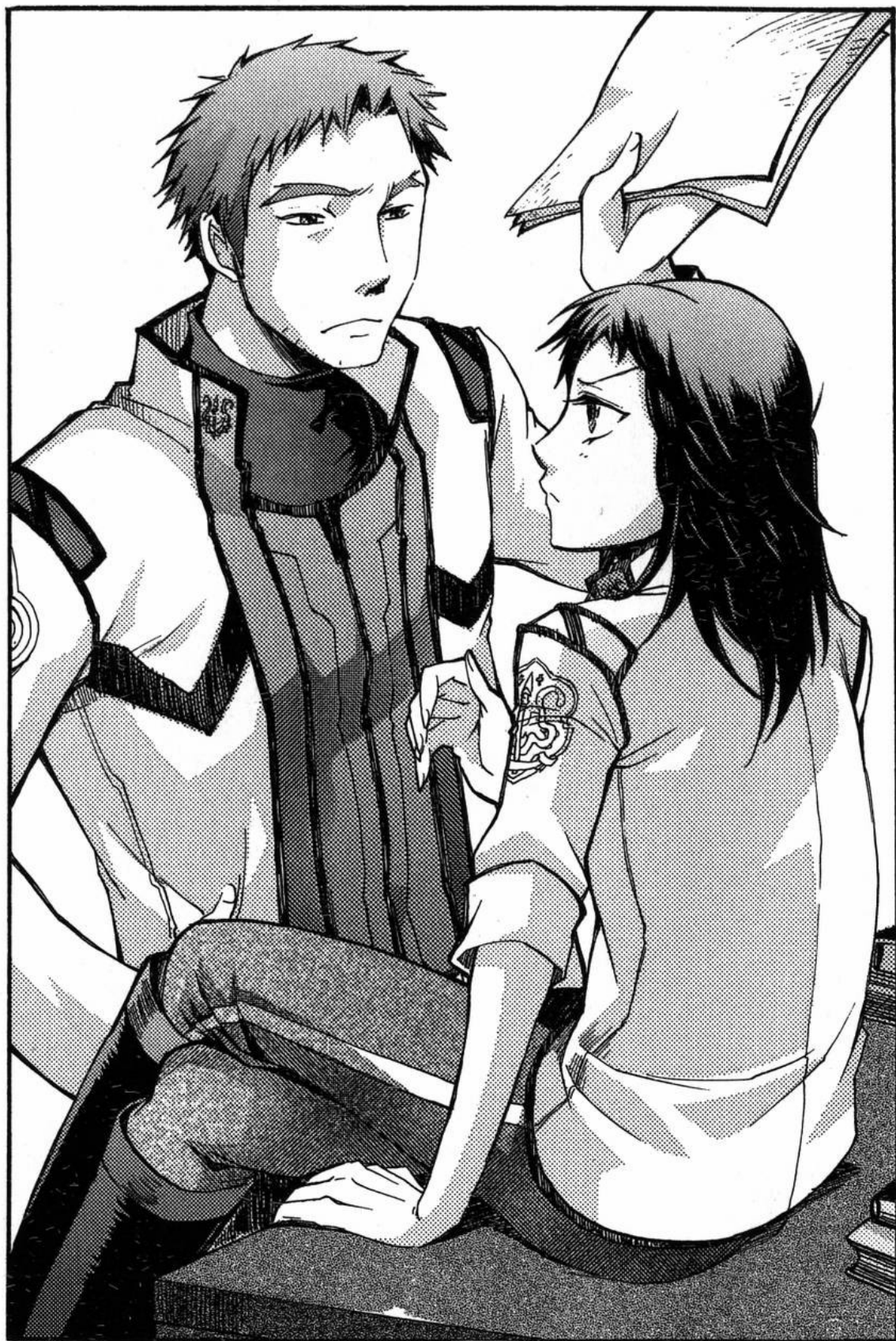


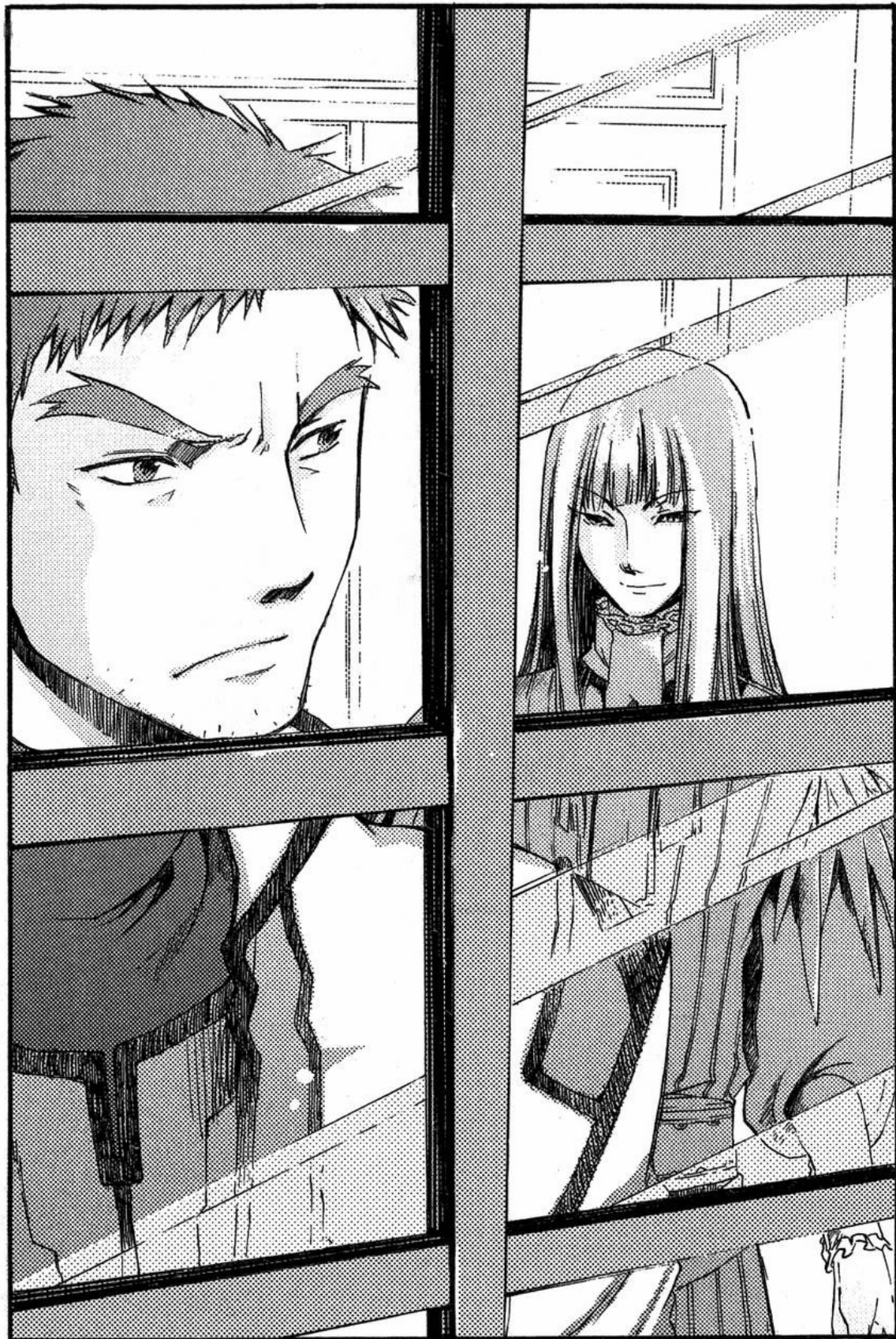


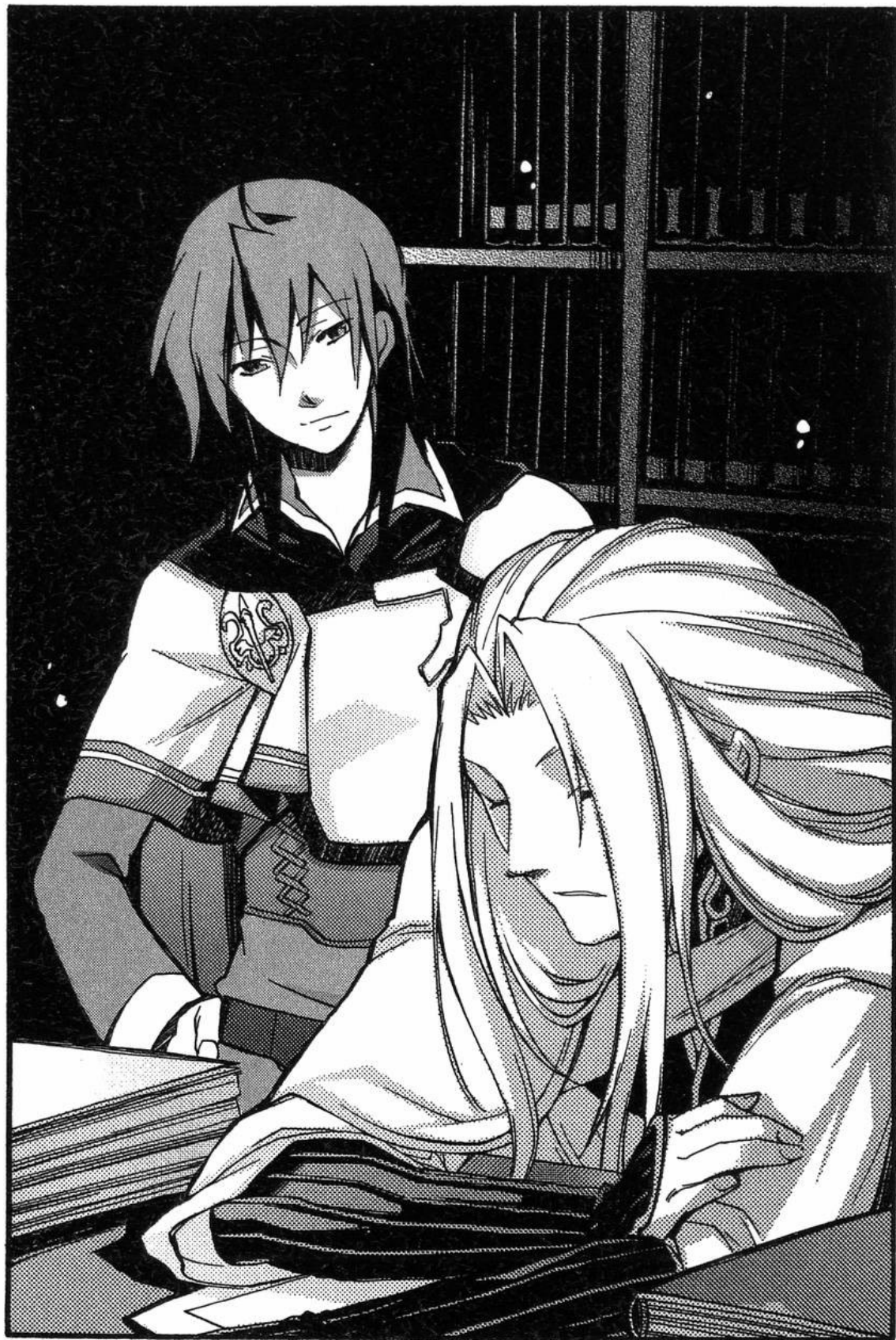












Prologue: Illusion

When I sleep with you, I will always have this kind of dream.

When the sun is setting.

Looking at the sunset, sighing, today was a great day too.

How blessed we are.

I really hope that the next will come quickly, tomorrow will also be a happy day.

I sigh.

Following that the sky darkened.

I anticipated the arrival of the morning.

As long as there is your smile, my world will be filled with brightness.

Stroking your beautiful hair, saying I love you.

You will also say "I love you."

I once thought that these days would continue forever.

I will be happy again tomorrow.

Always.

Always.

Be happy.

It should have been so...

But in the dream.

You smiled sadly, telling me this is not possible.

Why?

Why is it not possible?

To my queries, you only smiled sadly.

Then you told me.

Then, I'm going.

I said no.

I didn't want you to leave.

But you didn't listen.

Hugging him.

At the same time hugging me.

I love the two of you.

Because I love you... So I have to leave.

Her determination was very staunch.

Too strong.

It was so firm that I was unable to stop her.

So I opened it.

That.

So I opened **that**.

This was the beginning of this country's end.

I cried... But I still opened it.

Absolutely, cannot be touched.

The path that definitely, cannot be treaded on.

That which definitely, must not be opened...

Chapter 1: Peace

The door, that was a small door that was not decorated.

But that door, was a door located in the middle of Roland Empire's capital, Reylude.

And this was the door to the king's office.

Ryner knocked it vigorously.

"Sion, are you there?"

Ryner said unenergetically.

Just like that he waited a while.

An unmotivated long slim body.

Black hair that was never not messy.

And unenergetic eyes that were the same colour as the hair looked at that door.

"Hey—It's morning~ Time to get up~"

Although he said that.

"..."

From the room, there was no response.

So, Ryner knocked viciously on the door again.

"Alright alright foolish king! Your beloved Ryner has returned after one month~ Come out and welcome me—"

"..."

But, there was still no reply.

Ryner had a bored expression:

"...Ne Ferris, Sion that fellow doesn't seem to be here?"

Looking at his partner beside him.

A woman with a cool beauty was there.

Golden long hair, clear blue eyes, she was beautiful till the extent of being abnormal but completely expressionless.

A long sword that seemed as if it would be unable to move around just using her slim body, slender wrists hung at her waist.

It was Ferris Eris.

She took a look at Ryner's bored expression, after motioning to him to move to one side she stepped forward, forming a fist.

Using that fist she pounded that door hard.

"Hey, Sion, what are you hesitating about!! Open the door quickly to welcome us! The true king of this country has returned!"

She said.

"True king?"

Ryner felt doubtful to this, looking around him, confirming that there was no one else apart from him. Of course there wasn't even a single figure.

Who was the real king?

Ryner turned to Ferris:

"What are you talking about? The real king of Roland... Who is it? It couldn't be you, could it..."

To this, for some reason she shook her head frantically,

"Don't say something as impossible as that! They're on a higher level but you still disrespect them!? I, I can't even measure up to the heels of that true emperor who conquered the entire woooooorld!!!!"

Using a tone as if saying how can you do something like this, she said it in a

remarkably loud voice.

Ryner felt bothered by this.

“... Who on earth is that? ...This kind of grumbling is only done for the fun of it, so it isn't anything bad... But that person, who is that person who is claimed to be as great as the god? It can't possibly be me...”

Before he finished speaking, she had an expression that said stop joking,

“Stop joking!”

“Comparing you and the Emperor... How disrespectful!”

That firm statement, could not help but make Ryner shrink back.

“Is, is that so... Speaking of which, why are you so energetic today?”

But his words were ignored, Ferris continued.

Her beautiful face staring in this direction.

“You are completely unable to compare yourself against the Emperor, isn't that so? Because you completely don't work, sleep the whole day, and you said in a depressed manner that ‘I will cause trouble for you if I stay here’ and just like that you ran away.”

“Wait! I didn't say anything like that...”

But Ferris could not be stopped.

“And when I personally went to fetch you, you cried to me ‘.....*Is it alright...if I... continue living?*’ and so on...”

“Waaaaaa! You, how can you mention that sentence?! But, that, although, although I did say that...”

But Ferris still ignored Ryner, continuing:

“You are one million years too early if you want to compare your useless person with that honourable person!”

She shouted.

Ryner was already, speechless.

It was terrible.

What number was one million years! Who was that honourable person! He was unable to proceed with complaints like this.

No.

He already knew that things would turn out this way.

In the neighbouring country Nelpha, Ryner did ask Ferris “.....*Is it alright... if I... continue living?*”

He said something embarrassing like that that now he thought about it he wanted to die.

And he was crying.

In that moment, he knew that his life had ended.

From today onwards she would use this to tease him. For the rest of his life, this person would make fun of him with this.

But at that moment, she did not do that.

She only said sadly:

“.....*Idiot, if you die..... Wouldn't I be alone.....*”

She only said that.

But, this sentence saved him.

Just like that, it allowed him to look into the distance.

But...

But this person...

Ferris said again.

“.....*Is it alright...if I... continue to live?*”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaa Have mercy on meeeeeeeeeeeeeee stop it! I can’t take it anymore!? I’m going to run away! No, I’ll commit suicide!?”

Ferris grabbed Ryner’s collar from behind him who wanted to escape.

“Heh heh heh, idiot, don’t think that you can run away from my side so easily again and again. For the rest my life, I will use this to make fun of you.

Everyone—, this person...”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhh you have been possessed by the deviiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiil!!”

Just like that, the two of them made a ruckus outside the king’s office.

“Hey, do hear something?”

“Isn’t the king’s office in that direction?”

“Suspicious people!?”

Hearing those voices.

Ryner and Ferris exchanged glances.

“What, what should we do?”

“Urgh, in any case let’s tell them your hilarious story in full detail...”

“Rejected! Aaaahhh really, anyway let’s enter the room first.”

Saying that, Ryner took out a pin from his pocket, inserting it in the key hole.

Click.

In seconds he opened the door. The duo entered the room, and locked the door.

“Uhh, there’s no one?”

“Could they have invaded the office?”

“No, that’s not possible, I heard that the lock of this door is specially made. Could they have escaped to another place?”

“Alright, let’s find them!”

After confirming that the voices faded into the distance, Ferris said.

“‘Huh huh huh, no matter what kind of lock it is, as long as the genius underwear thief Ryner Lute-sama appears, it is a piece of cake.’ ...Is that the case?”

“What’s that?”

Ryner said tiredly.

Following that, he looked at the door and lock.

“But, this is specially made... Even if it wasn’t me, as long as it were a thief with the skills they would be able to easily open it. The security of the king’s room is at this standard... Sion that person, is he really alright?”

Towards this, Ferris replied disinterestedly:

“Euh, ma, Onii-sama is following that person.”

Only that,

“Ah... I see.”

Ryner understood it easily.

That was right.

Roland’s king, was always protected by the head of the Eris Family.

The Eris Family.

The mysterious noble family called the Sword Family, protecting the king of Roland through all its generations.

They wielded an abnormally large power.

Although Ferris was also part of that family.

Ryner looked at the sword on her waist.

That sword could be whipped out at a speed that could not be seen to hit Ryner but...

That speed was too unnatural.

Ryner used magic to force his speed to increase, but she was faster.

This, was impossible.

How much training did she accumulate, how much sacrifice did she make, that such a young person as her could become so strong.

Just thinking about it...

He felt disgusted.

But that person protecting the Roland king, was even more monstrous than her.

The head of the Eris Family, Lucile Eris.

Ferris's older brother.

Just like what Ferris said, as long as he was protecting him, no one could touch Sion.

Lucile was that strong.

“...”

Ryner thought of the time when he faced off against Lucile, and could not help but frown.

The center of the darkness.

He thought of that man's face, who pushed Ryner to the abyss of depression with a smile.

His strength, was already beyond humans.

That was absolute.

No...

“...”

That, was something that could not be called a human.

He laughed, his presence vanished.

It was something as simple as his aura vanished, or because it was too fast it was not visible.

In the next moment when he felt his presence vanished, Ryner was strangled by the throat without knowing when he had moved, and he was almost killed.

That was...

That, was not a human.

Ferris's brother... was not human.

Then why was it so?

At that time.

Ryner remembered what Lucile said.

As he grabbed Ryner's throat, Lucile said.

“Ferris is not a monster? Hahahaha, yes, aren't you very clear on that. Ferris is human, she is different from me who has cursed blood flowing in me... and you...”

That person had clearly said that.

Cursed, blood.

At that time, he did not think too much about the meaning of these words. Because this was something he was already accustomed to hearing.

The cursed monster.

The devil's son.

The killer, bearer of the **Alpha Stigma**.

Yes.

He was cursed.

So what about it?

It was not as if it was starting from now.

But, Lucile continued:

“So you shouldn’t have the wrong impression. You can’t have her. Because she has already been released... from that cursed blood.

Even if it is my blood, and your blood.

It wouldn’t mix with hers. This kind of matter, I wouldn’t allow it.”

This, what was its meaning?

It is normal that I have been cursed. Because I am the bearer of the **Alpha Stigma**.

This kind of thing, I am the most familiar with it.

That Lucile is cursed... This could be understood too. Because it was that kind of monster, there could be some secrets that he was hiding.

But Ferris being released from the cursed blood and something like that, what did that mean?

Ferris too.

Was she also, cursed before?

“...”

Ryner looked at Ferris.

That abnormally beautiful face, with its usual proper-looking features.

Indeed her beauty was beyond human.

She had a goddess's or fairy's blood flowing in her, so she was not human, even if that was said it would be acknowledged.

But this was not something that was so casual.

I am cursed.

Lucile is cursed.

But Ferris was released from it?

What on earth, did that stand for?

It did not matter if it were Ferris or Lucile, they seemed to suffer from a curse like **Alpha Stigma**?

But Ferris seemed to be released from it...

What, did that represent?

“...Eh~ Uh”

Ryner hugged his arms and thought.

He opened his right eye like this.

In that moment, in the center of his black eye, a red five-pointed star started to glow.

This pair, of eyes.

This pair of eyes that ignored his will and went berserk, killing his important people.

This cursed eyes.

I am, cursed...

“.....”

But Lucile said, Ferris was released.

In other words, was there a way to resolve the curse on this pair of eyes?

No, if he thought in that manner it would be too optimistic.

But according to Lucile's words, he seemed to know something.

And it is something that I do not know of.

"But that... what is that?"

Ryner muttered softly.

Following that, he continued to think of the first time that he met Lucile.

That, place where the monster was.

That, strange scene...

It was a void.

That place, was filled with nothingness.

As if isolated from reality, a dark, deep nothingness where the bottom could not be seen filled the area.

But only Ryner's eyes could see it. Even if it were Ferris, Iris, and the butler of the Eris Family, they could not see it.

Then he guessed that only the bearers of the **Alpha Stigma** could see it, but Arua did not see that nothingness too.

Then, what was that?

And, Arua and me, our eyes saw different things, what does that mean?

"..."

There were too many things that he had to think about.

Even this matter had to be investigated more seriously.

But I, was depressed because of one sentence from Lucile.

“An ugly monster...is having a dream that cannot be fulfilled?”

A dream, that cannot be fulfilled.

He was told that.

“You should know, your monstrous hands stained with fresh blood... cannot hold onto anything, cannot gain anything...”

Yes.

That was right.

My hands, could hold nothing.

But, even so.

I am always yelling in my heart.

I do not want to be alone, I yell.

Wanting to touch others.

Wanting to be by the side of others.

Wanting others to smile at me, I clearly always yell that.

I, escaped.

Without putting in the effort, I escaped.

“Ah ah really... Why did I have to leave Roland... There were clearly many things to do here...”

Ryner hugged his head.

Ferris spoke as if she remembered something:

“*“Is it alright... if I... continue living?”*”

“Uuaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh So I said don’t say iiiiiiiiiiiit!”

“Oh? What is it? This troublesome youthful period, don’t run away, talk with Onee-san.”

“Still talking about youth, youthful period... Uuuhhh.....Aren’t you going overboard in your teasing?”

“Hu hu hu”

“...May I ask, are you really this angry? Me carelessly disappearing from your side...”

“Heh, of course. My slave disappeared without saying anything, as an owner I would definitely be angry.”

She said.

Ryner looked at Ferris, revealing a smile that had mischievous intentions.

“Is that so. I’m talking about that. Because I’m not around, you would be so lonely...”

But, he only said that much.

Ferris had already unsheathed her sword at an unimaginable speed, the body of the sword struck the back of Ryner’s head,

“Yeeeeeeeeaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Just like that, he was sent flying in the office, hitting the large book shelf.

Because of this impact, several books that were thicker than he could imagine fell.

“Ah! Hey, hey hey! I will die if I’m struck by these... Ah, uh, ha!”

Saying that, Ryner caught the books agilely.

Three books with his right hand.

Two books with his left hand.

But there were four books above his head!

“Uuuuaahhh!”

In the end Ryner was still struck by them.

Ferris said regarding this

“No, don’t die, Ryneeeeeer!”

“Don’t say that so happily!”

Ryner shouted, jumping up from the pile of books.

As he massaged the back of his head.

“Uh~...There is a bump there, what if I really died... Forget it, it’s normally like this anyway...”

Something like this, as Ryner complained, he looked at the office again.

It was a simple office, it was completely the same like the last time they came.

It was hard to imagine that the king of this country used this, a small but clean room.

It was filled with large book shelves with very thick books that seemed a little complex, wooden chairs and desk, and a small mountain of documents on top of the table.

It was only, there were these rooms.

There was a resting room situated beside this room, but the simplicity of that room was almost the same as this. There was only a bed that could be used for sleeping.

No, it could no longer be called simple, it was the same as the room of a poor student.

It was unimaginable that this was the room of the king of a large country.

But Sion Astal was this sort of person.

He was more caring towards this country than anyone else, he was more conservative than anyone else, more diligent than anyone else.

For the people.

For his henchmen.

Working madly.

Speaking of which he was an idiot.

A working idiot.

Once he spoke it was about work and work, throwing a large pile of work to me without saying a single thing, if I return to Roland I will definitely have to kill that person!

Something like this, Ryner had once thought about it.

“...”

But now after seeing that abnormal pile of work on the table.

“...Really, did that idiot rest properly?”

He said helplessly.

Ferris looked at the amount of files too, and said:

“Ugh. Then see, that person is a real M like you, he feels happy towards harming himself.”

“...No, don't speak about Sion, at least I'm not that, and I hope that you don't hit my head.”

“...Although you say that, but Ryner who secretly feels happy that his head

ached thought ‘I...what is up with me. Don’t tell me, I’m a pervert?’”

“...Heeey! What story are you going to start with now?”

Ignoring Ryner’s complaint, Ferris continued:

“But no matter what he thought he was a pervert, because he couldn’t find anyone even more perverted than him. So Ryner cried: ‘...Is it alright... if I... continue living?’”

“Hey so I said to waaaaaaait!? You’re still talking about this? You’re still continuing?”

“Heh, of course it’s still too early to end. Next I will tell Sion in full detail how you cried...”

“There’s no need to tell him! That, I, I beg you, let’s keep this as a secret between the two of us, isn’t it not possible if I beg you?”

Ferris turned her head to look this way.

“A secret between the two of us?”

“That, that’s right, is that not possible?”

RYner said that, Ferris’s face had a slight hint of happiness for some reason.

“Ugh, a secret between the two of us, ah...”

Then she stared in this direction.

“Heh heh heh. The price to seal my mouth is very expensive?”

“Uuuu..... I knew you would be like this...”

“Eh, it’s more convenient if you know. But I’m not a demon. It will be fine with enough money to buy one million dangos.”

“Why are you counting the dangos? Ah forget it... It’s fine with me, but how much is that? Are my savings sufficient?”

Towards Ryner’s question, Ferris nodded as if saying relax.

“Your savings and selling two of your organs should be...”

“That’s too scary!”

After shouting that, Ryner sighed.

He looked at Ferris again, because she was satisfied with bullying Ryner, she had a satisfied expression.

Looking at her expression, Ryner smiled wryly:

“You are so troublesome.”

“Eh, that means, you want to dig out your organs to sell now, right?”

Seeing Ferris was about to unsheathe her sword, Ryner only narrowed his eyes.

Then.

“No, actually...”

Actually using one million dangos, was not even enough to express his gratitude towards her.

Telling him who thought that there was no value in him living, saying that I am needed.

Bringing me, back here.

And.

That promise.

The worst promise, that he carelessly made.

Ryner thought of what he said before.

“...I want you to, kill me. If I go berserk the next time... I want you to kill me... Don’t, hesitate like the last time...”

That was really, such a careless promise.

To Ferris, there were no benefits.

It was the worst promise, that would only hurt her.

But.

But she, accepted this.

“...If it is this, as long as you come back.”

I already escaped that much.

I betrayed her who kept me and escaped.

But she still, reached out her hand.

“...”

So...

At this moment.

“What is it?”

Ferris tilted her face slightly, asking with an uncomprehending expression.

To this.

“...”

Ryner’s shoulders slumped.

“...No, eh...it’s nothing, it’s just that I feel a little tired...”

He yawned, covering it up.

He was always escaping in this fashion.

Pretending that he was unmotivated.

Pretending that he was tired.

Pretending that he had no connection with the world, always escaping.

Telling himself that it all did not matter.

He clearly could not do this.

It would be painful if he were hurt, being by himself he would feel lonely.

It has nothing to do with me.

It has nothing to do with me.

Because he could relax if it were like that.

It has nothing to do with me.

He told himself.

He thought that if he lived as if he was not in this world, he would not be hurt.

“...”

But reality was not like this.

He only discovered that now.

Seeing the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** living with their backs turned completely to humans.

Seeing Tiir's expression of hatred towards the humans.

Seeing Lafra's smile who wanted to gain salvation, even though if this meant he would be alone.

Sion's pained expression when he saw Ryner escaping.

Lastly he saw Ferris who could catch up no matter how he escaped, with a sad expression.

“...”

Making her say:

“If you die.....Wouldn't I be alone...”

Saying something like that, Ryner finally discovered it.

I want to live.

I do not want to be alone again.

I want to be with others, I want to desperately protect what is important to me, I want to try my best to live on.

Like Lafra.

He wanted to have the strong heart to be able to yell at Ryner to save the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** before he died, Ryner hoped for that.

*“I hope that you can save the sad bearers of **God’s Eyes**, who have given up all hope on humans...”*

Lafra said this.

I am only a coward, I will only escape when injured, I was not even able to save the children who were the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** who were one by one killed in front of me.

He still had a peaceful expression until his death.

“...It was great that I could catch up, you will definitely keep your promise...”

He said that, then he stopped.

Then he died.

Entrusting everything to this type of coward, he only made a promise.

So Ryner,

“...Really, that despicable person...”

He said with a frown.

In that split second, Ferris responded.

“What did you say!”

“Eh? Ah, I wasn’t talking about you earlier...”

“Then who were you talking about.”

She asked that.

Ryner could not help but laugh.

Who was it, the despicable person?

This, he was already clear on who it was.

So, Ryner spoke in a dignified manner:

“It’s me!”

Ferris immediately followed:

“Oh oh!! You’ve finally discovered how despicable you are! Not taking the responsibility for making a woman pregnant, and using the money that should be used for buying the child’s diapers to gamble...”

She started it again, Ferris’s story that people had to put effort into understanding it. Because it was too tiring to grumble at every one, so he ignored it.

But, that was indeed the case.

The despicable person, is me.

I who feels it is troublesome and always escapes is the most despicable person.

But Lafra in my memories smiled and said he would not let me escape.

“You are a gentle person, so you will definitely keep your promise.”

But Ryner said with a tired expression ahh—have mercy on me, it is so troublesome that I hate it... retorts like this but...

“Although you say that, but you actually want to help others right.”

There was no such thing.

Every day I was so tired that I could die.

Ah—troublesome.

I am tired.

If I am going to trouble people, then it would be better if I died.

“You can’t do that.”

I can.

“You can’t, if you have to ask why...”

At this point, Ferris’s face appeared in his mind.

She said with an expression as if she were about to cry:

“...Idiot...If you die.....then I would be lonely...”

She said that.

This again, Ryner thought.

But.

But that was enough.

The reason to continue living, this was enough.

If he died, Ferris would be lonely.

She would have that sad expression.

Then, let me live again.

“...Really, dying isn’t simple too.”

Ryner muttered with a wry smile.

And Lafra pushed such a troublesome matter to me, the things that I have to do are stacked up in a mountain.

There were too many things that he wanted to do.

“Ah—it’s really troublesome... Really, where should I start from?”

The things he wanted to do, there were really a lot.

Saving the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** who had given up hope on humans.

But the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** and Gastark Empire were on opposite sides... He should say that one side had been targeted, if he left it as it was they would be exterminated by the people from Gastark.

So he had to protect the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** from Gastark.

“But dealing with one country, I alone can’t do anything...”

And that meant that no matter what Sion’s help was needed.

To go against Gastark, this side needed to use a country’s authority.

That meant, the things that he had to do, were almost in this order?

Ryner listed out the things that he had to do in his mind, arranging them according to the proper order.

1. Trick Sion in an appropriate manner;
2. Enable Roland to be able to go against Gastark;
3. Protect the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** in the Central Continent, and bring them to Roland;
4. It would be fine to just bring them here, Sion that person’s sense of responsibility is very strong, even if I don’t take care of them he would probably protect them;
5. Following that I can pass my days with afternoon naps every day.

“Oh oh, that is a perfect plan.”

Ryner said, and Ferris,

“Perfect plan? Another plan to attack women?”

But Ryner shook his head.

“No, I was just thinking of a plan that would make proper use of Sion that

idiot, achieving the goal easily.”

“Like that!? An im, impressive plan!”

“Right? Do you want to join in too?”

“Yes! Please let me join in the plan ‘make use of that simpleton Sion, and eat dangos every day’ that Ryner-san came up with.”

“The name of the plan changed so quickly... Forget it, it doesn’t matter...”

Ryner said helplessly, Ferris asked:

“Then, when do we start?”

Ryner hugged his arms again, starting to think.

And he thought of the first matter that he had to do.

“Trick Sion in an appropriate manner.”

For this...

“Uh~ Anyway, if we can make use of Sion’s weakness then it would be convenient... Have you thought of anything?”

Ferris crossed her arms across her chest too.

“Ueh? Weakness... Ah. I do know of your weakness.”

“No, using my weakness is useless”

“‘*Can I...continue living?*’”

“Aaah enough so I said don’t say it anymore!”

Seeing Ryner wail, Ferris nodded in satisfaction.

“Heh heh heh. That means knowing of this type of weakness is essential.”

But to this, Ryner glared at Ferris.

“If you’re going to tease me in this way, I have a counter-measure here too! Didn’t you tell me with an expression as if you were about to cry ‘*Idiot...if*’

you die...I...'

[illegible]

This time he was going to die.

He thought.

He tumbled on the ground, hitting the table, flipping the chair, appearing and disappearing as if life was walking through the traffic lights in the past. But he came to again as he was did not die.

“My, my whole body hurts... Auhhh...I, I wouldn’t speak of it anymore, please don’t kill me...”

Ferris's face turned red in a moment.

“D, d, don’t think that there will be a next time.”

“Wh, what is up with you, don’t tell me you’re embarrassed... Eeeeehhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

Walking through traffic lights... as written below.

“I, I already won’t speak of it, that, please keep your sword...”

“D, d, don’t think there will be a next time.”

“Y, yes... Because I don’t want to die, so let’s return to the previous topic. That, any, anyway...It’s that. What is Sion’s weakness...”

Ferris nodded stiffly.

“Eh, eh. What should we do?”

Ryner surveyed the room again.

The room, that was still very clean when they arrived, but after Ryner and the others came it became unbearably messy in a moment.

As he looked at it.

“...Anyway, let’s search this room first? There might be something embarrassing hidden here.”

“Euh. Embarrassing things? Like?”

“Ah? Like? That... How should I say it. Perverted books and such?”

“Oh oh! I see! Although he is called the Hero King, and pretends to be a good youth, but his true nature is a huge pervert like you!”

“...No, what is the same as me... What are you doing, why are all your words directed at me... Forget it, I’m used to it so it doesn’t matter.”

Ryner said something that was half-hearted again.

“Anyway we are looking for something like this.”

“Alright!”

Saying that Ferris immediately started searching the room. Since they were doing that then her movements were quick.

She pushed over the files without hesitating.

She started pulling out and throwing down the books from one end, pulling them out then throwing them.

The room before him became even more messy.

Ryner looked at her, and the messy room that looked like a thief had paid a visit to it...

But.

He thought about other things.

His, and Sion’s relationship.

If they grasped his weakness, then they could use it...

Actually, it was not that sort of relationship any longer.

Sion.

That person ordered Luke Stokkart to kill me.

“...”

He did not have any complaints.

Ryner thought, Sion only naturally passed on this expected order.

On Sion's command, this was written:

If you come across the situation where the bearer of **Alpha Stigma** Ryner Lute goes berserk outside the country, or betrays Roland.

Then kill him.

“...Kill him, ne.”

Ryner was buried under the pile of books, murmuring softly.

Although he did not know how that command had travelled to Ryner's hands.

Was that something that the nobles who were unsatisfied with Sion did?

Or was it sent over by Sion's companions who were unsatisfied with Ryner?

Or was it Sion himself, who felt that Ryner was already hindering him...

“...”

But Ryner shook his head.

That was not possible.

When they met in their last parting, that person's expression.

When he told him Ryner knew about the contents of the command.

A very pained expression.

And.

“...No.”

He had said that.

And he tried his best to retain Ryner who was betraying Sion and leaving with Tiir.

Just by looking at his expression at that time, he knew his thoughts.

So even if he made the command to kill Ryner that was not a problem.

As the king of a country, he had to do this much to protect the country.

So Ryner did not even care.

But the problem was, what did Sion think... This way.

When he made that order, what were his feelings?

When he knew that Ryner knew about it, what did he feel...

And.

What did Sion think about Ryner who kept thinking about betraying Roland?

Will he welcome me, once again, as his companion?

“...”

No, I have to make him welcome me as a comrade, because Ryner himself was unable to protect the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** from the hands of Gastark.

He had to let Roland protect the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**.

But if this was the case, another problem would be what did Sion think of the other bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**.

At this point.

Ryner remembered what Sion yelled at Tiir.

“What are you joking about! Ryner, Ryner is different from you, from something like you...”

Although he already stopped his words...

But the words following that, he already knew it.

Monster.

A killing, monster.

A monster that would spread disaster, and kill people, just by being by their side.

This kind of monster, it would be best if it was killed.

It was safest to kill it.

This matter was very clear, by right the king should counter it before any large losses were made.

The **Hero King** Sion Astal who was widely gossiped about in the streets would immediately counter this, just like how he ordered Luke to kill Ryner.

Not to mention allowing the bearers of **Cursed Eyes** to enter the country.

“Even if that is so...”

He had to make Sion accept the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**, even if he knew that it was dangerous he had to make him accept it.

“This is the most troublesome part.”

Even if it caused the people of Roland to experience danger, would he accept the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**?

“How do I convince him”

Ryner started to think, no, just convincing Sion was not enough, he had to make the people of the Roland Empire... Even the people in the world accept

it, or else this would be meaningless.

If they did not view them as monsters to be killed, but companions to live alongside with, otherwise it would be meaningless. The coexistence of the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** and humans, thinking up till that point, “Euuuhhhh.”

Ryner’s expression became grim.

To tell the truth it was very hard.

Up till today he himself was persecuted, humiliated... Other people looked at Ryner with annoyance, disgust, fear in their eyes when they saw him.

Calling that they had to kill the monster.

Thus the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** sank into darkness, shouting that they wanted to die, it hurt.

Shouting that if they had this kind of feelings... if they had this kind of feelings, then it was the same as them cursing humans.

This time Ryner remembered what Tiir said to Sion.

“You... aren’t clear about the darkness in our hearts who have always been betrayed, right? Ryner”

But then he remembered what Sion said

“Don’t joke around!! Ryner, Ryner is different from you, he’s different from you monsters!”

These words were complete opposites.

These words, how did he make them coexist?

Even Sion who would be considerate for other people would say this to bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** apart from Ryner.

Then what about the others?

He did not even need to think about this...

“...Ah, my head hurts... Really, Lafra that person really pushed a troublesome matter to me!”

Ryner knocked his head hard.

Firstly what should I do?

Am I myself able to accept myself?

Judging that I am not a monster, not dangerous, that I can live together with humans?

He stopped there.

“...It’s impossible... And I made that promise with Ferris...”

Ryner sighed again.

I said if I go berserk again then kill me.

And till the end they still say that I am not a bearer of **Alpha Stigma**, but something else, this makes me even more unable to trust myself.

This time he thought of the words of the spy from Gastark, Lir.

He looked at Ryner and said:

“Start speaking, **Alpha Stigma** monster, no, you should be the **Solver of All Equations?**”

He said that.

“The Solver of All Equations”.

Lir called Ryner that.

He was more confused towards this.

I always thought that I was the bearer of **Alpha Stigma**, but suddenly I was given a different name... And he did not explain it, only he understood it, that bastard!

And he said a string of incomprehensible things.

“This is a masterpiece, don’t tell me... you really don’t know it? Even the door too?”

It was not possible that he did not know it.

“...What about the key?”

He had no idea.

It was clearly regarding him, but he had no idea what he was talking about.

“...What am I...”

Firstly he had to solve this problem.

If he did not even know about his own matters, then he would not be able to coordinate the humans and the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**.

Why was he still able to come to consciousness, after he went berserk?

Why was it that the nothingness spread out in the Eris Family, could not be seen by Arua, but his eyes could see it?

And, was there any difference from the normal bearer of **Alpha Stigma**?

If he was not a bearer of **Alpha Stigma**, then why did he wield a similar ability to the bearer of **Alpha Stigma**?

“...I will need Arua’s assistance to investigate this matter. No, I should solve

the problem with Sion first...”

Since Luke did not kill Ryner and he left, judging from the fact that the assassin did not come after him after that, although it seemed like the assassination plan had been halted but...

But that did not mean that Sion had forgiven Ryner...

Just when he thought of that.

Suddenly.

“I found it!!”

Ferris shouted.

“Found it? What?”

“That person’s weakness.”

Saying that, she handed Ryner a letter confidently.

Ryner looked at it, on the letter and in Sion’s handwriting it was written:

“To my beloved Ariana-sama ♥”

“Hey, eh? This, this... Don’t, don’t tell me...”

Ryner asked.

“Eh, euh.”

Ferris nodded nervously.

So Ryner looked at the letter again.

But no matter how he looked at it, that was Sion’s handwriting...

But.

But!

“He even drew a hea, heart.”

“Eh, ehh.”

“Who is Ar, Ariana?”

“I don’t know”

“But this is as expected, it is a love letter?”

“Ehh.”

Speaking until there, the two looked at each other.

Then Ryner laughed suspiciously:

“Oooooooooohhhh this is a great weakness! If it’s this then that person will be my slave for the rest of our lives!”

Ferris revealed a suspicious smile too:

“Hu hu hu. I can obtain ten million dangos.”

‘Hey hey, ten million that amazing!? How much is that?’

“Eehh, fifty internal organs from Ryner!”

“...Don’t use that to count...”

Following that, Ryner calmed down his agitated feelings, looking at the letter again.

If this was read, then his life would be ruined.

As long as it was someone who had a conscience, they would not invade this private matter.

Ryner thought.

Yes.

This was not good.

No matter how annoying Sion was, I do not have to become a person who annoys people.

Yes.

Let's not.

So Ryner, told Ferris this:

“Read, read it quickly! After we finish reading it let us mock that person!”

“Ku ku ku, you really evil too.”

Ferris opened the love letter with this weird performance.

The conscience and privacy he was talking about had flown off. The love letter was opened.

“I, am a bit nervous... Perhaps there will be some extremely embarrassing lines, what do we do then.”

“Ehhh, Ariana, you are like my sun, something like this?”

“Uuaaahh if that is really written then I will really die~”

As they conversed, the letter was unfolded.

On the letter.

Sion's neat words, this was written.

“Ah ah. ♥

You are like my angel. ♥

As long as I think of you, I would not be able to sleep. ♥

Because, because you... You casually went through my room, and casually opened my letter to read it?

Just when I think of what punishment I should give to people like you whose actions are the worst...

My heart beats, thump thump, and I am so excited that I cannot stop smiling.

♥

How about it?

The guilt in reading the letters that others write.

The guilt of stepping into the important territory of other people.

Ah ah, what have I done. Harming Sion Astal-sama, it is impossible that there is no punishment.

If I can express my dedication wi, without restraint?!

Do you have this feeling?

But relax. ♥

It has been prepared. ♥

Although I heard from Luke that you have returned, but you came back too late. In that period of time the work has multiplied to quite a bit, you will definitely not have any time to eat dangos, and sleep in these five years. ♥

That is great. ♥

Anyway welcome back. ♥

Welcome to Hell. ♥

Sion Astal ♥

After he finished reading this letter filled with warmth and heart emoticons,

“Save, save meee!”

Ryner wailed.

Ferris tore the letter and said,

“Doesn’t that, that, that idiotic king know that I will die in less than one minute, if I don’t eat dangos?”

She was so angry that her whole body trembled.

“What, what should we do Ferris. That person is serious. That kind of work load that makes normal people unable to sleep and work until they are satisfied, making workaholics think that it is a lot... It’s, it’s not true that there will be no time to sleep?”

The situation, was the worst.

Everything was in Sion’s grasp.

Ryner would come back, he would go to the office, in order to gain advantage over Sion they would search the room, find this letter, casually open it to read it, he had predicted it all.

If this continued.

If this continued they would really be worked till their deaths!?

“Let’s, let’s escape Ferris!? We should not have come back! We should escape from this mad country where we will be worked until we die, and escape to an empire where we can be praised just by taking afternoon naps!”

“That, is that the legendary, that country where all the streets are organized by dango stores?”

“...Ah—ah—eh... Forget it, eh. Never mind what kind of country it is... Anyway let’s go!”

The duo looked at each other, nodded.

In the face of a strong enemy, the two of them reached a common understanding for the first time.

“Anyway let’s leave this room first, this is his territory.”

“Al, alright, then let’s meet at my house, and make our preparations.”

After they agreed, their movements became quick.

Ryner stood up immediately, grabbing the handle of the office that had been

there for generations...

But.

Everything, stopped here.

Ryner twisted the handle.

But, the door could not be opened.

No matter how many times he twisted it click click, the door was completely shut.

“Eh... This is...”

Ferris who stood to one side,

“What are you doing, hurry.”

“No, no, this door seems to be locked...”

“Then can’t you open it the same way as you opened it when we entered?”

Although she said that, but this could not be done.

When they entered he had inserted the pin into the keyhole and then he could unlock it but... this side of the office’s door, even if it were the key, or keyhole, there was nothing.

The keyhole for locking the door from the inside was clearly still there just now, but it had disappeared at some point in time.

“Ah... Then, then how do we open this door...”

Ryner spoke till here, a voice travelled through from the other side of the door.

It was a familiar, man’s voice.

An intelligent, and slightly happy voice.

“Ah—Ah—, Ryner-kun on that side of the door, no matter how you twist it it’s useless. The lock of this door is **specially made**. You should know about

this. I still reminded you out of good will just now?”

He said.

“Told me... just now?”

Ryner frowned deeply.

If, if it were earlier...

This was, a memory not too long ago resurfaced.

The conversation between the soldiers that were chasing after them earlier.

“Uhh, there’s no one?”

“Could they have invaded the office?”

“No, that’s not possible, I heard that the lock of this door is **specially made**. Could they have escaped to another place?”

“.....Hey! Don’t tell me that third soldier...”

“Correct. That was the master of the two of you, Sion Astal-sama~”

After Sion said that with a joking tone, then he immediately used his calm voice to say:

“Really, the two of you are late in coming back. I was so tired of waiting. Then, starting from now let us work madly to resolve the work that is pressurizing us in one breath...”

But Ryner carried over these words, saying:

“Hey Ferris! Your sword doesn’t have any problem dealing with this door, right?”

She immediately nodded,

“Of course, let’s escape!”

Saying that, she unsheathed her sword.

But at that moment.

Sion chanted a magic curse that had a strong power!

“I’ll use ten dango sets to buy over Ferris.”

In a split second.

The sword that Ferris unsheathed settled on Ryner’s neck.

Ferris said:

“I’m sorry Ryner... I couldn’t help it.”

“What do you mean you couldn’t help it! You betrayed... W, wait, we’re going to be separated... that... good Ferris, I, I’ll buy you over with eleven sets!”

Ryner just finished saying that, Ferris turned to the door, flourishing her sword at it.

“Damn it, Sion Astal! Do you think you can still dominate...”

“Oh dear wait Ferris, Ryner using all his resources to buy dangos and those that I can buy... Which side do you think can buy more?”

“Forgive me Ryneeeeeer!”

It was easily.

Ferris’s sword, was swung easily to this side.

“Iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiih!!!”

Ryner cried.

Then he collapsed on the ground like that.

As if mocking Ryner who was like this, the devil's voice travelled over from the other side of the door.

“Ha, ha, ha, a mere peasant still dares to go against the authority of the state, you are really too foolhardy, Ryner Lute-kun.”

To thi, Ryner was collapsed on the ground in this manner, moaning:

“Uhhh...You tyrannical person... really make people 100% unhappy...”

To this, Sion used his usual bright voice:

“Hey hey, saying that a 100% candid youth like me makes people unhappy, people will be mad.”

“Your fake candidness makes people mad!”

“Ah—is it really that maddening?”

“It's maddening.”

Ryner said again. Sion laughed lightly from the other side of the door:

“Ahaha. I see. But Ryner, can I say something?”

“Ah? What?”

Ryner replied in this way, Sion breathed in from the other side of the door.

He breathed in—deeply.

And paused.

Suddenly,

“I am the one who is driven mad by you!”

He shouted.

His voice was so loud that it was shocking.

To this, Ryner could not help but,

“Ah? Eh, ah? This...”

But Sion ignored him, continuing:

“Why did you come back? Did you want Roland to protect the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**? Betraying me again and again, but returning with a foolish laugh because you need my power? Do you think I will forgive you?”

He said that.

“...”

To this.

Ryner was speechless.

That was the case.

At this moment, Ferris

“Hey, Sion, saying this...”

But, Ryner stopped Ferris.

“No, enough Ferris. It’s true. Yes, it’s like that... I, returned to use Sion. This, of course he will be angry.”

But.

When Ryner said this.

“Bang!” The noise of the door being kicked sounded.

Then.

“...Angry? I? I would be angry because I would be used by you? You... really, stop joking... I am mad because of your attitude, don’t you know?”

Sion’s voice trembled, and it still had a hint of anger.

A voice carrying anger, and also carrying a hint of sadness.

Then.

“Carelessly being unable to understand it, casually leaving me side...

Why didn't you discuss it with me before you were unable to understand it? If you were in pain then why didn't you say you were in pain? The darkness in our hearts who weren't clear and always betrayed, how could we know, if you want to complain then complain. If you want to cry then cry, or what is it? Are you unable to tell me? Aren't we friends? Aren't we... best friends? Answer me, Ryner Lute.”

He said that.

To this, Ryner was really speechless this time.

He was too foolish.

Thinking that he was a monster, he should be alone.

There were clearly many hands reaching out to him, but he hurt them all, and he himself was crying that he was alone.

Escaping, escaping, escaping.

Always hurting others.

In the end, he made Sion who was annoying, arrogant, and smiling confidently, so angry that his voice was trembling now.

What, have I been thinking, so far?

That Sion will once again accept me who am a bearer of **Alpha Stigma** monster?

That he would accept other bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**?

The other party, is that Sion?

That **Hero King**, who thought of others like a fool.

So, that, already had an answer.

So Ryner looked at the door, and said:

“...You, you... Best friends, aren’t you embarrassed in saying that?”

An angry voice immediately travelled from the other side of the door:

“Of course it’s embarrassing! So I locked it, I wouldn’t be able to say it face to face.”

“...No, I feel that if it’s embarrassing then this sort of thing doesn’t need to be said...”

But Sion interrupted Ryner:

“Yes! That’s right! Normally I wouldn’t need to say it, but if I don’t say it to the bearer of Alpha Stigma, he will immediately say something like ‘I can’t trouble you anymore’ and run away from home...”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaiiiit!”

Ignoring Ryner’s cry, this time it was Ferris who was beside him:

“Not only that, this person still said ‘...I...’ ...”

“Hey!!! You, you, didn’t I make an agreement with you not to say it!”

To this, Ferris looked down at Ryner.

“Eh? An agreement?”

“You, you see, the one about the million dangos.”

She quickly thought about it, then clapping her hands as if she immediately remembered it,

“Ah ah, the one about you selling your organs. It’s that one?”

“Yes! It’s that!”

“...Is that so, we have made an agreement on it. Sorry, Sion, let’s talk about it next time.”

“What next time!”

Ryner shouted, but Sion who was on the other side of the door said:

“Ah—ah—. Don’t tell me it’s that? In Luke’s report ‘*I...if I continue living...’...*”

“Uuuaahh!”

In that moment, Ryner gave out a strange cry, and died.

He was only nineteen years old...

But the devil continued:

“And that, it made me very touched. I didn’t think that Ferris would say that. ‘*If you die, I will be lonely...’...*”

But, his words stopped here.

A silver light that the naked eye couldn’t keep up with, chopping the door into pieces in a split second, the door was destroyed cleanly.

But Ferris did not stop.

She stabbed her sword beyond the doorway.

“If you continue I will kill you.”

That cold voice said.

To this Ryner,

“Kill him kill him!”

He said that, looking out of the room.

On the other side of the door, a man stood there.

The king, of this country.

The figure of the king, of this Roland Empire.

He had elegant silver hair.

Unwavering, sharp golden eyes.

Sion Astal.

People called him the **Hero King**.

The **Hero King** who did away with the previous king who was a tyrannical king, saving Roland.

The monarch who saved the country, bringing light to Roland who only had despair.

Everyone thought, as long as he was king there would be no problem.

The rumours in the streets were that, he had all the qualities of being a king.

Intellect, mental capacity, charisma, ability, appearance.

He was, the ideal king.

He was, the best king.

But, these were lies.

Ryner knew.

This person was not the ideal king, he was the devil.

An arrogant person who thought that without him nothing could be done.

Carrying a candid mask, he always did things that Ryner did not like for his happiness.

And no matter what he was so over-confident that it was unpleasant.

Sion smiled.

He used a finger to lightly raise the sword at his throat.

“Ah ah, because of just now, it has been determined that 10 dango stores will be going broke, Ferris seems to hate dangos, it doesn’t matter?”

Just doing that, Ferris seemed to receive a huge impact, her sword dropped on the ground.

But Sion did not stop.

He entered the room and saw Ryner who was on the ground.

“Ah~ Oh dear, it’s very clever to be taking an afternoon nap now. Because it will truly be too busy from now onwards, the next time you can sleep seems to be 5 years later...”

“Hey not sleeping for 5 years will cause a person to die!”

Towards Ryner’s shout, Sion:

“Ahaha. My condolences. ♪ ”

“It’s not fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuunny!”

But towards Ryner’s yell, Sion only laughed and accepted it.

“Forget it forget it, if I really want you to not sleep for 5 years, it’s useless if you yell. Speaking of which, look, do you see those piles of files on the table? Those are the work that the two of you have to complete for this month, go through it once today.”

Following that statement, Ryner looked at the documents scattered in the room.

The work that they had to complete for this month.

They had to look through all of it by today.

But, the amount of documents... there had to be one thousand pieces...

“Th, this, how can this be possible...”

But Sion interrupted him, lightly saying:

“It can be done, as long as you finish the work load of these documents by this month, those 10 dango stores mentioned earlier can be saved? Are you motivated?”

Suddenly, Ferris was energetic.

“I’m burning up!”

“It has nothing to do with meeeeeeeeeeeee!”

But, this cry was not heard by anyone.

The, the devil...

He thought.

What ideal king.

What perfect and flawless king.

Everyone was tricked.

This person is.

This person is...

But, suddenly,

“...That’s great.”

The devil said.

Ryner looked at Sion.

For some reason, he had a slightly sad, smile that lacked confidence.

“...Welcome back, the two of you. That you could return, it’s really great...”

A soft, voice.

To this, Ryner was disgusted.

Really, where could it be seen that this person was the ideal king, he was so venomous in his heart.

He was so weak, and his face looked like he was about to cry.

And he accepted the taboo **Alpha Stigma** monster, and said something like it is great that you could come back...

It was too idiotic, if he continued to be an idiot, he would not be able to

govern the country, he worried.

So,

“...”

Ryner turned his face away from Sion.

He did not want anyone to see that he had the same expression as that idiot.

“Are you going to add...”

But, Sion interrupted him,

“It’s alright.”

“...”

“It’s alright.”

That idiot, saying that twice.

So Ryner did not raise his head,

“I’m going to trouble you again...”

Sion resumed his usual confident voice:

“Ah ah, welcome back to Roland.”

He said.

Chapter 2: Awakening

Then the world became peaceful as if it were stained with a rose colour.

People were laughing.

People were celebrating the sudden peaceful days.

How wondrous was it!

How joyful was it!

It was as if it were a dream.

No one was crying.

No one was hurt.

It really was a perfect world.

A flawless world.

Yes,

That was,

Because it was too perfect, it felt as if just by touching it slightly, it would be destroyed.

On the surface everyone was laughing.

My important people are laughing.

Luke is here,

Lear is here,

Lach is here,

Moe is here,

Major Miller is here too... No, not only them, my foster father who is always very strict, my foster mother who hates me the most, and my sisters who are actually very kind... Amy Onee-san, Narya-sama too...

My important people are laughing.

There is no problem,

Because this world will become even more perfect,

It will not return to that mad era again,

Under the guidance of Sion Astal-sama, this country will finally become perfect.

“...But why.”

I said,

“...Then why?”

Looking around me, I said:

“Why is this place...so gloomy?”

But this voice was absorbed by the darkness around me and disappeared.

To this, my body trembled.

To this, my body shuddered.

To the loneliness,

To the fear,

To the despair... Yes, this darkness was despair.

Suddenly I noticed.

Despair was enveloping me,

But whose despair was this?

It was not mine,

I knew this.

I had... I had family members, Luke, Lear, Lach, Moe... and my family members who would smile at me.

And I was not lonely,
And I did not feel fearful,
Then, then the despair surrounding me was...
At this moment,
From within the darkness,
“...Uuu...uuu.”
A cry sounded from the deep darkness.
“...This voice is...”
Whose voice was it?
It felt very familiar,
For some reason it felt very treasured,
Then I remembered,
Yes, I lived to hear this voice,
To live on with him,
He who trembled alone in the darkness.
I lived on, to be at the side of him who was knocked down by despair, and
called a monster.
At this moment I finally realized,
What was surrounding me was his despair,
The darkness in his heart,
I was within it,
Then I...
“W, wait! I will q, quickly go to your side, Ryner.”

So I started to run.

Running desperately in the darkness,

But, no matter how I ran I was unable to shorten the distance between me and him,

“Why?”

I was running, but the more I ran the further I was,

“W, wait for me Ryner, don’t... don’t leave me.”

I wanted to cry,

Why did Ryner escape?

I clearly lived for the sake of seeing Ryner,

Why was my hand always unable to reach him?

“...Why?”

I clenched my fist hard, until my nails penetrated my palm.

But.

“...Ah?”

At this moment, I discovered a strange matter,

I was clearly clenching it so hard but it did not hurt at all,

Feeling curious about this I looked at my hand,

But something strange happened,

My hand,

I could not see my hand,

“...This is...”

I started to think,

Anyway,

I started to think,

Where was this place, what happened to me?

“...”

There was a lead.

I looked around me again,

This darkness,

Don't tell me this is

“...My dream?”

Then wake up,

Since I know it is a dream then I should be able to wake up,

So I tried to wake up,

“Eh... I woke up!”

I tried shouting,

“...”

But the darkness did not budge.

“Wake up, me!”

“...”

“It's curry for breakfaaaast!!”

“...”

“If I'm late I will be lectured by Major Miller who will have scowling face again...”

Speaking to here, she thought of Major Miller's face.

“...Urgh.”

She could not help but make a noise because she was scared,

But no matter what she was unable to wake up,

But this was not possible,

No matter how tired, or lacking in sleep she was, as long as she wanted to wake up she would be able to get up,

She had been trained in this way since young,

What has happened to my body now?

“...Don’t tell me it is magic? Is this a magic for sleeping? Or am I tied up...”

It should be that.

The darkness surrounding her,

And she being unable to see herself,

This was the special trait of the magic that forced people to sleep

“YAKUSHI”,

Me who is outside the dream is sleeping... I should say in a state of fake death,

The heart has stopped too,

It is a magic that is mainly used to imprison large numbers of slaves, for human experimentation, making people unable to resist it.

But this magic has a problem, there is a one-third probability that the person under the spell will die,

Among ten people three would die,

But the Roland of the past would not care about that,

“Seven out of ten people living is enough.”

Milk's magic instructor had said that.

Of course this magic was deposed after Sion Astal gained governance,

“...I have had this spell cast on me...”

But who was it?

In that moment, a figure appeared in my mind,

The image of the sun setting,

Ah ah, this is the image of us returning and I heard that Ryner also returned to Roland too,

Entering the official residence of the Taboo Breakers, handing the report to Major Miller, but at this moment I was in a daze,

Ryner's matters,

This country's matters,

Because I was too stupid and finally noticed the problem that should have been noticed,

“...”

But I made a mistake then,

On my way home,

At night,

The darkness had come,

At that time I was thinking,

It is very dark,

This country's future is very...dark.

She thought about this for some unknown reason,

The darkness continuously swelled,

But no one could stop it,
Just like no one could stop the sun set,
The darkness swelled up.
And it formed shapes,
It became black beasts,
Before me,
A man with long black hair and cold eyes leading those beasts appeared.

That man said:

“I have come to receive you, Lieutenant Milk Callaud, please come with me,
everything is starting, from here.”

At that moment I should have run,

But I was unable to move,

The beasts attacked me,

But I was unable to resist,

“Ugh.....I don’t have any memories after that.”

That meant, I lost consciousness then, and had the sleeping magic

“**YAKUSHI**” cast on me.

“Euuuhhhhhh~”

I hugged my arms and thought.

This very troubling,

I seemed to be captured by that man who is like a devil,

And I had sleeping magic cast on me and became a hostage,

“...But a hostage to deal with who?”

And why does my head ache after I was kidnapped?

Luke and the others?

When she thought of that, her feelings darkened,

Luke and the others must be very worried, I have to return quickly...

But this magic was a complicated magical structure that had to be activated by three or more magicians, I alone cannot dispel it,

The one who is able to undo it, definitely, it can only be him.

The one who was always called a genius in that orphanage, Ryner Lute.

If I could use his **Alpha Stigma** then perhaps I could escape this prison,

“I...can’t do that at all.”

I looked at the darkness, sighing.

“As expected, Ryner is very amazing...”

But I cannot always be this weak,

Why was I not killed but had sleeping magic cast on me?

If I do not understand this, then when I wake up I would not know how to act.

“Why was I caught?”

She had thought about it earlier, as expected it should be as a hostage directed against someone.

But, a hostage directed to who?

It could probably be...

Luke and the others.

Major Miller.

Or...

“...”

Or Ryner?

Thinking of that, I shook my head weakly.

“...How...How can I possibly be a hostage directed at Ryner... And I haven't seen Ryner recently...”

She suddenly remembered an annoying matter,

The issue of the golden haired beauty by Ryner's side,

A person who was very beautiful, and has many things that I lack,

And Ryner... revealed his smile to her many times.

“...”

Ryner revealed his smile to her many times.

I do not recognize his expression,

At least I did not make him reveal that expression in that orphanage,

“...Does Ryner...like her...?”

As she thought, my chest ached, I could not help but press a hand to my chest,

But because this was in the dream, so matter how hard I pressed it was not painful,

The deepest part of my chest was clearly aching, but even if I used my nails to press against my chest it did not hurt,

Anyway I had no sense of pain, it would be good if I were able to eliminate the pain in the deepest areas of my chest...

“.....Uuu, how painful.”

I wanted to cry again,

It should have been alright,

As long as Ryner smiled I did not mind,

As long as he lived I felt happy.

“Uuu.....Am I very selfish...? If I’m like this... it would make Luke and the others disappointed.”

But at this moment Luke’s smile appeared in my mind,

Lear’s, Lach’s, Moe’s faces appeared in my mind...

Telling me with their usual gentleness, how can that be.

“Captain Milk is a good child.”

“...Eh.”

“It’s fine, we are always your companions, because you are our family.”

“Eh me too... I think so too.”

It was true.

If it were for them, I could definitely die,

Finally having family members,

A place where I can return to in satisfaction.

They created this for me,

Everyone in that orphanage who cried, shouted and died,

I had once given up on living, but Ryner gave me a reason to continue living,

Luke and the others gave me a place where I could continue living.

I who should have died there, am living here now.

The people who shouted that they wanted to live on died, but someone like me who gave up on living lived,

How blessed I was.

What am I anticipating?

What do I still want?

Ryner,

Even if Ryner who I always liked, looked up to, searched,

If he did not smile at me then...

This,

“...I can’t be too selfish...”

My voice trembled,

It was lucky that this was a dream,

Even if my flowing tears would not be seen by others,

If I did not smile then everyone would be worried,

Don’t underestimate my appearance, I am a captain,

Although I am a little undependable, always troubling Luke and the others,

But, I am a captain,

I have to buck up,

I breathed in gently,

And told myself:

“...Eh... I have to buck up, Luke and the others must be waiting for me, I should do what I can do.”

Even if Ryner will never smile at me, I have somewhere to return to...

“...I have to work hard.”

I started to think again,

When I was captured, that man... think of what the black haired man with a cold smile said,

“I have come to receive you, Lieutenant Milk Callaud, please come with me,

everything is starting, from here.”

That person had said that,

And, “Everything is starting, from here...? What does that mean?”

I felt suspicious,

What was going to start?

I was... a hostage to start what?

To speak truthfully, I should not be a hostage directed towards Luke and Major Miller,

Because the two of them were especially clever,

They were different from me, calm, clever, if it were really impossible, they would definitely abandon me.

Those two were different from me, they saw the whole picture.

They would definitely die for me, but if I became a hostage, causing the whole **Taboo Breaker** squad to encounter danger, they would give up in retrieving me.

So I was very relaxed towards this,

Then what benefits were there in taking me as hostage?

Who would be troubled?

What would... my existence...

At this moment,

“.....Uu.....Ah.....”

A voice travelled over,

From that darkness,

“.....Ryner”

I called his name,

But I no longer reached out my hand, because I already knew I would not reach him in this dream.

Yes,

In this dream,

Even if I reached out I would not reach him,

He also seemed that distant in reality,

“.....I’m joking.....”

A dry laughter,

To this, I sadly felt my frailty...No,

There was no time to stop in my steps and not move on, I had to think about my progress carefully,

“...Eh, alright.”

I pat my cheeks, but there was no feeling, but I did not mind it,

Continuing to think,

My... reason in existing,

When I realized it I was caught,

Why was I suddenly promoted to a rank of Lieutenant and the captain of the **Taboo Breaker** Squad?

And why did I always have the mission to chase after Ryner?

Was everything coincidental?

Impossible,

Impossi...

Then why?

The answer was already there,

I am,

“...I am... the hostage that Sion Astal prepared...to keep Ryner in this country.”

So Ryner pretended he did not know me when he saw me,

So that I would not be involved,

“...But why did His Majesty do this? Why does he need to use a hostage to get Ryner to remain?”

I remembered,

Sion Astal’s appearance,

Although I had only seen him several times, but he was very perfect,

A gentle smile, noble eyes,

The **Hero King** who saved Roland,

And everyone anticipated,

That he could change this country,

Anyone would anticipate that,

If it were him he could create a perfect world where no one cried, no one was hurt,

Because he was a perfect and flawless king that had no weaknesses,

“...But...That’s completely impossible.”

There was nothing perfect in this world,

Anyone could have one or two scars, scars that they did not want anyone to touch, deep scars that if they were touched everything would crumble.

She knew just by looking at herself,

The scar on her body,

Because it was too deep, she did not want anyone to see it, but still wished to interact with others.

Because people are unable to live on alone...

Wishing that someone would still be able to tell me I love you, after coming into contact with that dark, deep, ugly scar on my body.

Anyone... anyone would be like that,

Because it was perfect they did not notice,

The killing machine that was once called a genius,

The **Hero King** that everyone looked up to,

They were clearly more deeply hurt than anyone else, but they still laughed as if it were nothing,

And wanted to create a country where there would be no scar wounds, anyone could laugh,

As long as it were touched,

A frail perfect country that would disappear in an instant,

“...”

Sion Astal took me as hostage to keep Ryner Lute in this country,

But this was,

“...Sick...”

I thought,

What was he thinking in the depths of that smile?

In the depths of those pair of determined golden eyes of Sion Astal,

The perfect façade that would not crumble,
In the deepest darkness of that perfect and flawless king...
What was reflected there?
From,
The depths of the darkness,
“.....Uuuu.....uuuu.....”
Cries sounded again,
Ryner was crying again,
I have to go and save him,
I thought,
I have,
I have to make him,
I have to save Ryner... from Sion Astal’s hands.
“Wait, Ryner.”
I started to run,
This time the distance shortened,
I sprinted to him who was alone in the shadows,
“Wait, I am going over now, wait.”
I ran desperately,
Shortening the distance between me and Ryner bit by bit,
Finally reaching his back,
“I, I’m here, I... I came to Ryner’s side... I, I won’t let you be alone again,
so, don’t cry...”

But, at this moment he turned back,
But, that was not Ryner,
It was a child there,
A child who was crying badly,
But she was recognized his face,
Messy silver hair,
Golden eyes that had tears flowing out,
It was Sion.
Sion Astal...
I was unable to move,
He looked here and said this,
That voice was lacking confidence, as if it were about to disappear,
“...Already...I already... want to die...”
To this, I,
I,
My consciousness flew,
My consciousness flew,
The darkness spread again,
Then,
She,
Milk Callaud... woke up,
“...up.”
In that moment her whole body tensed up.

She woke up... That meant the magic had been undone,
Although she had not grasped hold of the situation in real life... But as long
as she was a hostage, then any mistake would make her lose her life,
She had to, had to think,
At this moment,
“...I already want to die...”
Sion’s earlier words rung in her mind suddenly.
“...Ugh.”
Milk could not help but moan,
No,
This was not the time to be thinking of what happened in that dream,
Reality... She had to ascertain the situation in reality,
Enemy... Was the enemy still in her surroundings?
Even if the forceful sleeping magic “**YAKUSHI**” was disabled, the person
that it was cast on would only wake up after a few hours, that meant that they
should be waiting for me to wake up under observation.
Then, Milk probably had a chance,
Although she could not defeat that man who was like the devil and led the
black beasts... but if it were normal soldiers watching over her, then she
should have a way.
“...Although that is a naïve thought...”
No, it should be said that that was completely impossible.
That man who was like a devil called Milk Lieutenant Milk Callaud.
He knew Milk’s name and position,

Then he should know Milk's ability,

Soft curly brown hair, large eyes and a child-like face.

Age-wise she was sixteen years old, but she still looked like a twelve, thirteen year old.

So many enemies would underestimate her, in the past she had made use of this to defeat stronger opponents...

The opponent this time,

Once they met he made Milk helpless and ended everything,

Making Milk faint with overwhelming power, casting the forced sleeping magic without waiting for Milk to wake up,

It was not the type that was arrogant, or acted violently towards females,

Mildly carrying out the plan,

The annoying type that left no holes,

Would that type of opponent send people weaker than Milk to observe her?

Impossible,

This was impossible,

But,

“...But if I give up because of this then everything will end...”

She had to counter them,

Luke and the others must be worried,

The only problem was...

How long had she slept,

Although it was only a magic used to imprison hostages and made them enter a special state of fake death, compared to just sleeping, the muscles and body

would not weaken... but if imprisoned for many years, sleeping for many years, then the body would naturally not move.

If she was unable to move, then she would not have to think about escaping,

“...If I were only imprisoned for a few months then that would be good...”

But she could not immediately try out whether her body could move, there could be watchers by her side,

Even opening her eyes was not possible,

So Milk opened her eyes slightly,

She saw a ceiling,

It did not seem to be the interior of a prison,

Compared to a prison she should say that it was a normal room, and it was not very big,

And the people surrounding her...

“...”

There was someone,

Although she was unable to confirm it because she was looking at the ceiling, but there was someone beside her,

They seemed to be passionately reading, but she did not know what they were reading.

Anyway there was someone watching,

And even though they were in close proximity, but she could not feel their presence at all.

She understood the ability of this guard,

Or was it she who had turned dull?

No matter what,

(It's not good... Auh)

Milk moaned in her heart,

It would be quite difficult to defeat this guard, although if it were escaping it could still be possible...

But that is only in the situation where it is only him keeping watch,

If there are any more... then I'm dead.

Then what do I do?

Do I pretend to be asleep, and escape when there is a chance?

“...”

Milk thought about it, rejecting it,

Because she could not be always caught like this,

Because being released from the magic being woken up, that meant that she was going to be used as a hostage,

If that was the case then it would trouble others,

Although she did not know who it would trouble,

But she could not always stay here,

To escape before she was used or...

Be killed, it was one of the two choices,

“...”

So she made her decision,

Milk tensed her body again,

Confirming her nerves in her fingers, hands, legs, abdomen were connected,

(...Move)

She muttered in her heart,

(...Move)

Her movements were slow,

But it did not mean there was no response,

So,

(Move!)

When Milk shouted she felt her body wake up, the muscles and nerves that had lost feeling linked up,

No problem,

She could move,

If that was so that meant, she had slept for a few months,

Of course I would not be able to regain my physical ability in the past...

But I need to use this body to escape from here,

The guard on the left had not noticed that Milk had awakened,

If she wanted to do it then she had to do it now,

Milk planned her moves in her mind,

First she had to open her eyes,

Then she had to jump up, immediately using her left hand to cover the guard's mouth,

Then her right hand... would knock the opponent unconscious or hit them or strangle their neck... this would depend on the opponent's abilities, if she could knock the opponent unconscious then that would be good...

If the opponent's abilities were beyond hers, then she would have to harm him in order to escape.

Anyway,

“...Hu”

Milk breathed in and tried not to make any noise,

Sending oxygen to the muscles in her body,

Then,

“Ha!”

At the same time as she breathed out forcefully she jumped up,

She wanted to use her left hand to cover the guard’s mouth like that...

“...”

Milk.

But,

She despaired,

As expected there was not only one guard,

Not only one, there were four in the house,

Even so Milk wanted to beat the guards, but...

The opponent was faster,

The man behind the guard who had noticed Milk waking up,

No, she should say the boy? The youth who looked to be slightly bigger than Milk, and still had some traces of immaturity, for some reason, when he saw Milk wake up he had an expression as if he were about to cry,

“C, C, C, Captain Milk has woken uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuup!”

“It can’t be... Moe!?”

At the same time as Milk shouted, Moe wanted to leap towards Milk,

But,

The aggressive youth beside him who was of the same age kicked him,

saying:

“You idiot! Captain is still recovering from a serious affliction! How can you jump on her!”

“Lach!?”

Milk called his name in surprise, he looked here, but for some reason he also revealed an expression as if he were about to cry and his body trembled,

“...Ah ah... Damn it... It’s great that you’re still living... living... I.. I thought it would be impossible... Captain Milk!”

And just when Lach wanted to jump over too,

“Hey!”

A man with a calm atmosphere appeared behind him and smacked him down,

“Really Lach... You clearly said that Captain is recovering from a serious case so we can’t mess around? The captain is tired, be quiet.”

That face was also a face Milk was familiar with,

“...Lear”

After she called his name he looked over,

“...Is there any place that feels uncomfortable?”

Milk shook her head to this, so he relaxed:

“...Is that so, that’s good.”

He smiled,

Lastly it was before Milk,

The man that she thought was the guard raised his head from the book “A child’s energetic state starts from the morning”,

That face was obviously one that Milk recognized,

Luke,

Luke Stokkart,

A man with a thin tall frame, and having a full crop of white hair even though he was twenty five years old, always using a gentle expression and protecting the squad to look at Milk,

And using his usual gentle expression “...Really, you’ve slept in late, Hime-sama.”

To this,

“...Ah.”

Because of this gentle voice, Milk’s whole body relaxed.

In the moment she heard Luke’s voice, her tensed nerves relaxed,

She had been prepared to die up until just now,

It was only because of his smile that the air became warm, she felt troubled,

“...I, I... But, but... Why did... I, I become a hostage...”

Then Luke placed his hand on Milk’s head,

“It’s alright.”

He smiled as he caressed her head,

And it was that kind of gentle smile that was used to reassure small children,

Just by seeing this smile, she would feel that it was alright,

She had returned,

There was no need to worry,

But,

“But, but... That, that... I...”

But Luke interrupted her again,

“It’s fine, you don’t have to worry.”

“Ah... Eh, that, but...”

“Come come, it’s a long-awaited reunion, today I will make the things that Captain likes, what do you want to eat for dinner?”

“No, that...”

But this time it was Moe who raised his hand and jumped up behind her,

“Yes! Yes yes! I, I want to eat curry!!”

Lach continued,

“We’re not asking you what you want to eat!”

“Ah!? Then Lach doesn’t want to eat curry?”

“...No, although I want to eat curry too...”

“Right right, talking about feasts it’s curry! Curry feast!”

To this Luke laughed wryly and said:

“Really, I feel completely helpless against you guys... Then I’ll make curry, what does Captain Milk want to eat...”

But, Lear who was behind him interrupted him:

“Really, I feel completely helpless against Luke-senpai, how can you let the captain who has just recovered eat curry? I forbid the feast, eat porridge, Captain should not go out today, she should rest properly.”

So Lach and Moe were visibly disappointed.

“No!?”

They shouted, Milk could not help but laugh,

“Aha... Really, everyone has not changed...”

To this Luke revealed an apologetic expression,

“Ah ah, this... I did not think that... Right, cannot eat curry...”

To this, Lear said:

“Really, Luke-senpai, buck up a little.”

Lach and Moe smiled mischievously and looked at the other person:

“Yes yes, really, buck up a little!”

“I don’t want to be lectured by you!”

Luke was angry,

To this everyone smiled, Luke could not help but smile too,

Yes,

Everything was normal,

She had returned,

Milk thought this when she looked at Luke and the others,

I... I am really blessed,

If I can return to everyone’s side like this then I would not need to be troubled,

It is already fine,

There are no changes,

Everyone is smiling gently,

Then.

“...”

What had happened?

Everyone was laughing as if Milk was only asking this question,

Something must have happened,

Here,

Something must have happened in Roland!

Milk looked at Luke and the others,

“...That”

But Luke shook his head,

“...It’s alright, it has really ended, so for today... Please rest, Captain’s body is worrying... Alright?”

“...”

Milk fell silent,

For today...

Luke had said that,

Then will you tell me tomorrow?

“...”

He would not,

If this was something that would be dangerous to Milk after Milk knew it, then he would decide not to say it,

No, she should say how much did Luke know?

What had happened in Roland?

Surrounding Milk... No, what had happened with Ryner and Sion as the epicenter... How much did he know?

“Uhhh...”

Milk started to think,

But as if wanting to interrupt it, Luke patted my arm,

“Alright! Then I will make an especially delicious porridge today!”

But Lach said in annoyance to this:

“I don’t like porridge.”

To this Moe said in surprise:

“Lach you dislike porridge? Why why?”

“Because it doesn’t fill you up, it feels the same whether you eat it or not.”

“Then, then, what about putting the curry in the porridge?”

“Oh! Good, Moe, you’re very clever today...”

Lear grabbed their collars from behind,

“Curry is impossible, the Captain just recovered, don’t cause a scene, let’s go out!”

Then he pulled them out,

Luke stood up too:

“Then I will go and cook the porridge, Captain please rest well, because the sleep caused by “YAKUSHI” is fake, so you should be very tired after the spell was undone.”

She only discovered it when he spoke,

She was really very tired,

She was nervous because she was escaping and surprised as she met Luke and the others so she did not notice it, but she really was very tired.

And once she noticed it she was especially tired...

“Huuuuuuuuuuuu~”

Giving a huge yawn before everyone,

Luke laughed at this, letting Milk lie down.

“Don’t worry, sleep, when you wake up there will be a delicious porridge.”

“...Eh.”

Milk nodded,

Moe’s voice travelled from behind:

“Tomorrow! We will have a feast tomorrow, so Captain please look forward to it, have a sweet dream!”

“Eh.”

Milk nodded hard.

Then,

“Good night.”

Luke and the others said in unison and left the room,

After Milk watched them leave,

“...”

But she did not sleep,

She could not sleep,

She was unable to sleep in this situation where she did not know anything,

What am I involved in now,

What,

What are Luke and the others doing?

“...”

Milk’s ears perked up,

Outside the room,

Although it was very soft, but this conversation travelled over,

Lear’s voice,

“Then, I’ll go to Kaiwal...”

She was unable to hear what came after this, but this time Luke

“Please do that, we’ve made him worry.”

“...That Froau...”

“No, that doesn’t matter, the Major has already...”

“...Is that so, then”

“Ah ah”

“...In the future...”

“...”

Until here the voices slowly faded away,

But,

“...”

Milk looked at the ceiling, she did not close her eyes,

Although she was very tired, but she did not want to sleep,

She did not feel right,

Luke and the others who interrupted Milk’s words with their forced laughter,

“...What happened?”

Why was I suddenly promoted to a Lieutenant?

Why was I selected as the Captain of the **Taboo Breakers** squad?

Who and why was I abducted?

And how was I saved by Luke and the others?

What,

What is this encircling?

“...Dream”

Milk said softly.

The dream in “**YAKUSHI**”...

“...That time I was surrounded by despair... Whose was it?”

At first she thought it was Ryner’s,

The darkness in Ryner’s heart,

She thought that it was the darkness stemmed from Ryner being called a genius, being lonely because he was called a monster,

But it was not,

“...I am a hostage meant to keep Ryner here...”

The one who did this was the king of this country,

But,

“...But why does His Majesty want Ryner so much...?”

Although I can guess a little... But is there a need to use a hostage?

Or did I guess right?

That my guess was completely wrong, and it has nothing to do with His Majesty at all...

“...If that is the case, if that is the case then it would be good... But...”

It seemed that that was not so,

Earlier she heard the name “Kaiwal” in Luke’s conversation,

Milk had heard of this name,

Major General Calne Kaiwal,

This name was too famous in Roland,

He was named together with the Crimson-Fingered Clough Klom, and was

called the left hand man of Sion Astal,

Why did this name emerge from Lear's mouth?

Thinking of Lear's words...

"Then I'll go to Kaiwal..."

Go to Kaiwal,

He was not someone that he could address in that way,

Lear's position was a corporal,

Then the other party was a Major General,

Not using honorifics to this kind of person would have been dealt with the death penalty in the past Roland,

And hearing Lear's words, Luke said:

"Please do that, we've made him worry."

What did this mean?

"... Making him worry means I have been kidnapped...? But why would Major General Kaiwal think of me...? Then is he worried that I... No, the one worried about the hostage directed towards Ryner is His Majesty...?"

Being kidnapped as a hostage directed towards Sion Astal,

If she thought of it in that way she could at least see something,

She seemed to be able to see something...

"Uuh... I can't see it."

What had happened in Roland?

First she needed to investigate this,

"It seems that, Luke and the others definitely will not tell me..."

Milk moaned,

It seemed like everyone wanted Milk to be outside of the situation,
Of course this was to protect her, but it could not always be this way,
“...As expected I will have to investigate myself, being protected without knowing anything is not feasible, but... where do I start investigating? If it is to hear the words of the country’s upper tiers, I don’t have anyone I know... know of...”

Thinking of that,

“...There is!”

Because she suddenly noticed that there was someone who was clear about the affairs of the country’s upper tiers by her side she could not help but voice it out,

At this moment, Milk thought of this,

Talking about the country’s upper tiers meant someone with authority,

Talking about people with authority then it would be the king,

Talking about the ones after him would be the nobles,

Talking about the nobles would be the Callaud Family,

“F, Father is a noble!?”

No, although it was not to the extent that she was shocked now,

Thinking of that in that moment Milk thought that’s great! in her hear and

“Uuuh... b, but, Otou-sama... will he be angry after knowing my mission failed...?”

Thinking of her foster father’s stern face,

Then thinking of the club that was usually used to punish Milk...

“Uuh..... S, scary...”

She could not help but tremble,

She would definitely be punished,

Not only failing the mission but even not returning home would face punishment,

And, and she was clearly prohibited from eating cakes but she ate them and things like that, and many other things, she would definitely be punished,

But, even so,

“I want to go back...”

Milk said,

This was not the time to be scared,

“Eh, I still have to return, and greet them... And I have to ask... what is happening in Roland now. Alright, if that’s it...”

Milk got up and looked at the window under the bed,

The sky was already red outside the window, it seemed like it was sunset,

It was almost night time,

Like what Luke said,

She really slept for too long,

But she could not keep on sleeping,

She could not be protected by Luke and the others all the time,

So Milk jumped out of bed,

She moved to the window as she tried her best not to make a sound,

And opened the window,

“...I don’t want to go back... but I’ll try my best to return!”

And turning back,

“Then everyone, I’ll go out for a while, I’ll try to return before dinner... So...

I'm leaving.”

Just like that,

“Ha!”

She jumped out of the window,

Just to mention this was the fourth floor of a five floor building...

This kind of thing did not matter to her,

But that was the start of the maze,

The start of the ill-intentioned puzzle surrounding this country,

The points and lines were already deteriorating until it was unable to be undone,

You cannot touch it,

You cannot touch it,

Once touched it will,

Once entered it will...

When Milk reached there it was already night time,

The surroundings were dark,

But that was her home that she knew, even if there were no light she would not get lost,

The Callaud Family that she had not seen in a long time,

It should be a familiar place,

It should be familiar,

“...”

But Milk already noticed it,

Something was not right,

“...Why?”

She said as if not knowing what to do,

“Why...? Why? B, because... Im... impossible...”

When she dashed towards the Callaud house from the Callaud Family’s courtyard she muttered,

And at the same time she felt her heart rate increase,

Because it was too strange,

This was that Callaud Family,

Don’t even mention the afternoon, even at night it could not be so dark,

There were hundreds of guards in the courtyard, and they had ten and more watch dogs...

But the courtyard was empty.

“But, how...”

Milk ran,

She ran towards the house,

But no matter what she could not feel the presences of anyone,

“How... how can this...”

Because there should be many people here.

Even Milk’s sword instructor, magic instructor, education instructor...

Everyone should be at home,

And there should be many servants in this house, Otou-sama, Okaa-sama...

Milk arrived before the house.

Then shouted,

“Amy Onee-san!! Narya-sama!!”

But this voice was absorbed into the dark house,

“...It, it can’t be...”

Milk looked at the house dazedly,

In that moment I thought that everyone had moved house when I was carrying out the mission,

But the door before her showed that that was not the case,

The door of the Callaud Family,

The large door that was over-imposing,

But one side of it...

It was smashed into smithereens,

And there were marks on the wall that were gouged out, smashed through, burnt.

Milk touched it gently,

“...This is... this is magic? Attacked with magic?”

Milk raised her head,

Then looked into the darkness beyond the door,

“...”

She was unable to say anything.

She entered the house slowly like this,

The interior was destroyed to a larger extent,

There were signs everywhere of people fighting,

And then she saw something that she did not want to see the most,

Black stains on the wall,

This was something that she had seen enough of in that orphanage,

“...The colour of blood.”

Milk thought that she could die of asphyxiation,
Because she was already clear on what had happened here,
Here,

They were killed here,

Otou-sama too,

Okaa-sama too,

Amy Onee-san too,

Narya-sama too,

“...But, this”

Milk trembled,

“...How can it...”

Milk trembled,

Suddenly remembering Otou-sama’s stern face, it was always stern, and if
Milk failed she would be hit,

But,

But he was not a bad person, although he was stern... but he brought me up,

Although Okaa-sama did not say anything to me, but she did not kill me.

Amy Onee-san and Narya-sama were really very kind, sometimes they would
talk to me... and sympathise me who had to go through tough training,

My other family who is different from Luke and the others,

But.

“...”

Milk looked at the blood stains on the wall,

Although she did not know if this was Otou-sama's and the others, perhaps Otou-sama and the others had escaped to another place.

But she already knew what had occurred here,

Being able to damage this house that had hundreds of guards to this extent,

This,

This was only...

“...”

But Milk stopped thinking there,

Then,

“...What is it... that has happened here... here in Roland?”

In the house,

She asked that limitless darkness.

Chapter 3: And then, the beginning of the end

“...”

How many years had it been since he met her?

Major Rahel Miller was thinking of this problem,

A capable face with lines firmly engraved on it, and seemed to be always frowning. A body that made people unable to imagine that it was already thirty years old, and had been trained completely and there was no fat.

From that straight sitting posture, it could be seen that he was stern and law-abiding.

This was one of the rooms in the official residence of the Taboo Breaker Pursuit Squad.

His room was so organized that it was near perfect, even how the books were placed, how the books were piled up displayed efficiency and rationality,

But

“Really, sweetheart you are really, even the house is this stubborn.”

Picking up the file on the table, after reading it carelessly placing it in the room.

Miller raised his head after he saw that:

“...There are private and confidential documents in here, I hope you wouldn't look at them carelessly...”

He looked at her with a grimace.

Then he thought about it again.

How many years had it been, since he met her?

Ten years.

No, more than that.

But her appearance had no changed from their first meeting.

Shoulder-length blue hair, sharp eyes, and that mischievous smile, that she usually carried.

“Oh? What is it what is it? No letting me look at private and confidential missions, it feels very suspicious... Unless, something went awry?”

Miller,

“... How can it be, you should be very clear that I don't have the time to go wrong? Madam Germer Kleisrole.”

He told his wife unhappily.

Germer's face darkened immediately:

“Didn't I say not to call me by my full name, and my surname is no longer Kleisrole, but your wife... Mrs Miller.”

Saying that, she laughed in slight embarrassment,

“...Oh dear, saying myself is quite embarrassing. ♥”

To this,

“...Yes. Yes...”

Miller nodded, looking at her stomach,

His child was in her stomach. And it was already the second one.

The first time he met her, he had no idea that he would become husband and wife with her.

Not only that, even that he himself would have a family in this mad country...

He could not imagine it.

So that was why he still called her Germer Kleisrole

Because compared to her being his wife, the time with her as his comrade

had been longer.

Yes. He remembered the first time they met, it was when they were still trainees in the military.

She was especially outstanding because of her abilities.

After entering the military officially, she was very energetic too, and held many titles.

The Icy Assassin.

The Beautiful Socceress.

The Viciously Drunk Female Panther.

Miller especially agreed with the last title. If she was drunk, it would be too dangerous.

He did not know how many times he was nearly killed by that unlimited violence and complaints...

But those titles did not matter.

Compared to those, Miller's first deep impression of her was when she became the instructor of those children.

The children who entered the Germer Kleisrole training facility,

Pia Varliere.

Peria Peruula.

Ryner Lute.

“...”

From then, it had been over ten years.

And, the weakest boy at that time who was most incapable, was now the center of this country.

The bearer of **Alpha Stigma**, called Ryner Lute.

At this moment, Miller raised his head to look at Germer.

As expected she was casually reading Miller's information.

When she wanted to take a document,

“Stop, this information cannot be leaked out.”

Miller snatched the document from Germer's hands.

Germer pouted because of that.

“Ah!! Covering it up like that, as expected something went wrong!”

Miller sighed helplessly,

“I already said I'm not free...”

But Germer did not let him continue,

“Not... Of course I know this, I am most familiar with your matters. I have always, always, always always been watching you, from the moment you only focused on your work, although it was annoying, and tripped my mistaken person and I always have been!”

“M, mistaken person...?”

Miller said that, and she laughed, then revealed a sad expression,

“So... I came to disturb you from your work. Are you over-working recently? Although I know that it will be very troublesome if this country's situation continues... But you don't have to take responsibility for it all.”

“No, I'm no planning by myself...”

“Don't lie, you clearly always frown and handle everything.”

Saying that, Germer mimicked Miller frowning, but her expression did not resemble Miller.

No matter how she scowled, there was still an element of adorableness.

Talking about that, in the past her eyes were sharper, as expected having

children would lead to a change?

Miller thought.

At this moment, she stopped mimicking Miller, revealing a sad expression and said

“I say, can you rely on others slightly? I can still work... If it’s half of your work...”

But Miller shook his head,

“No, you are pregnant, aren’t you? I can’t let you work.”

“But there are a few months to the birth of the child...”

“No”

“But you...”

“No!”

Miller could not help but shout, Germer halted.

Miller frantically,

“...I’m sorry, my voice earlier was not good for the unborn child...”

But, Germer only laughed sadly.

“...Really, you don’t have to mind that, this small matter wouldn’t affect our child.”

But Miller again,

“...I’m sorry.”

Saying that. Germer revealed a troubled expression because of this,

“What... I didn’t come to let you apologise...”

Miller looked at Germer.

Her worried expression.

He felt that he was too much of a loser, actually making her worry this much, am I working that hard?

Thinking about the work he had these few days...

“...Ah ah, yes, I understand, I’ll let you help, but let’s agree that after I have finished up today’s work, we’ll discuss about this after going back, alright?”

So Germer’s expression cleared immediately.

“Really! Really!? Because you trapped me at home so I am extremely bored!”

“What... those are your heartfelt words.”

Miller said as he laughed wryly, no, of course he knew that she was here because she was worried about Miller.

But.

“Alright, let’s go back together today.”

“Later, let’s...”

“Germer.”

“...Right—”

She displayed a bored expression, shrugging, then leaving the house.

Opening the door, from the slit.

“We have to discuss it when you return today!”

“Ah ah”

“Don’t push yourself too hard!”

“You are the one who should pay attention to your trip back.”

“Oh, I’m being loved?”

“...”

“Goodbye, Rahel, I love you♥”

“...”

“Eh? Where’s your reply?”

“Alright just leave!”

“Alright—♪”

Germer left.

After confirming this, Miller starting to read the documents that he had snatched back from her hands.

It had this written on it.

Regarding how to deal with Ryner Lute’s return to the country.

But he could not let Germer know of Ryner Lute’s tracks.

Because she was... too kind.

So he let her retreat from the front lines, clearly saying that in the Roland in the future, her presence would be an obstacle.

“...”

After Miller threw Ryner’s documents on the table, he looked out of the window.

The sun was setting.

This was as if hinting at the country’s future.

Eternal peace.

But this was only superficial.

The future that this country faced was...

“...No, to stop this, I...”

Miller narrowed his eyes,

Gentleness, feelings, love... this would become an obstacle in this mad world.

The ex-students that Germer loved... Ryner Lute, even if he walked on the path of righteousness, he could not continue walking on it.

If Miller loved Germer... then the person who would make use of this would appear.

Like.

“...”

Thinking of that, Miller looked to the table again.

At some point in time, a man had appeared in this house.

Long black hair.

A slim body, handsome features.

He was young, younger than Luke... perhaps around 22, 23 years old?

But those eyes.

Dark blue, icy, dark eyes that seemed to be carved out and as if they looked down on everything,

Miller looked at those eyes,

“...I did not say that you could enter?”

Hearing this, the man smiled,

This was a dark smile, that was made with ill intentions,

“...That was impolite of me, because the door was open...”

“Heh, because the door was open, then so what? Because the door was open, you deliberately hid your presence, and entered sneakily like a rat?

Lieutenant General Miran Froaude.”

But Froaude did not change his expression to this,

“...Yes, I came in with my presence hidden, if you had not discovered it, I planned to kill you directly...”

Saying that, he looked around him,

In the four corners of the room,

There was a small magical structure carved in every corner, after Froaude confirmed every magical structure, he shrugged,

“A magic trap... Although Sergeant Luke Stokkart had this too... You are really well-prepared. Like this, I am unable to make a move, as expected of the one called the leader of that revolution... is that so?”

“Hah, a boring praise.”

Miller said unhappily.

Froaude quickly smiled,

“Ah ah, you can tell? It’s like that, I’m not too good at flattery... so it is quite hard surviving in the world.”

“That’s right. You seem pretty dark too.”

“You really can say that... But I came to answer your call, but I am described by you in such a way... It seems like you aren’t that good at surviving in the world too?”

To this, Miller frowned,

Surviving in the world...

“...Eh, I’m not quite good at it.”

“Right? Those who truly can handle it would not let... enemies... see their important figures.”

At this Froaude’s smile deepened, a smile as if looking down on Miller,

Then,

“For example... Beautiful pregnant women.”

Saying that, he looked to the door,

At this, Miller remembered, if he revealed a little weakness it would be like that.

But, Miller said bluntly.

“She will not become my weakness.”

Froaude looked here again,

“Is that so?”

“That’s right”

“If your wife was suddenly abducted, wouldn’t you be worried?”

“No.”

“Really?”

“Yes.”

Miller gave an affirmative,

And this was true.

If Germer were abducted...

If Milk were abducted...

It was the same.

He would not be worried.

Froaude said coldly:

“How cold of you.”

“That’s not up to you to say.”

“I’m praising you?”

“That’s not up to you to praise.”

“This is...”

For some reason Froaude said happily,

“As expected you are the same type as me...”

“No, I am different from you.”

Froaude asked uncomprehendingly,

“...How are we different?”

“You are more capable than me”

“You are starting to flatter me now?”

“No.”

“Then what does that mean? I am more capable than you?”

Miller nodded at this,

“Yes, if I killed your important person, as long as I have the value of being used... you would still let me live?”

But to this question, Froaude thought about it slightly then said,

“...No, I cannot answer that question, because I don’t have anyone important to me.”

“How exceptional.”

“Haha, as expected you are the same as I thought, very few people would praise this as being exceptional, I’m very happy... And...”

Froaude looked here,

“You are a scary person as I thought, if I abduct Germer Kleisrole... even if you think that I am a person of use to Roland... you would kill me too... is that what you mean?”

But Miller shook his head,

“This country... doesn’t need you”

“...This...This is really troubling... Is there no place for me on the map that Rahel Miller thought of?”

“No, your actions are too assertive.”

“...That is because your movements are too slow, on the map that I thought of, you should be moving faster... you don’t move at all, so I have to make the pieces move forward, understand? This country doesn’t have any time already.”

Yes,

There was no more time.

If this continued this country would not have any future.

But even so.

“Your methods aren’t right.”

Miller stared at Froaude.

But Froaude smiled,

“Is that so? I thought my movements are still within the boundaries of your plan?”

Froaude’s actions were within the boundaries of what Miller had predicted, he moved as if he knew Miller’s plan.

Regarding Ryner as well.

If Froaude had not done that, Miller would have done it, Ryner Lute would one day become an obstacle for this country.

Although because there were many bearers of the Cursed Eyes existing, and he could become a form of communication so they did not kill him... but he

was still dangerous.

He would crush Sion.

On this meaning Froaude was always right.

But the last problem,

The last was that...

“The assassination of Marquis Callaud... that is within the boundaries that I allow, but it is too early now, you know that too, right? What were you rushing for?”

But Miller said this,

The smile vanished from Froaude’s face,

His sharp eyes, sharpened,

“...Ah ah, I see... This is really, there is really a need to... check our plans...”

To this sentence,

Miller was troubled, from Froaude’s reaction,

“Then the one who killed Marquis Callaud...”

“It wasn’t me, I thought you were the one who killed...”

“Then...”

Froaude confirmed it,

“The person moving in the dark in this country... the noble that has the power to control Duke Stearead, but...”

“He couldn’t appear on the stage... Do you know who is the culprit?”

But Froaude shook his head in disappointment,

“...No, although I am investigating...”

Miller was really troubled this time,

Miller was doing his best to investigate as well, but there were no results,

But it was impossible that they could not find out who was it,

Controlling a large number of nobles, using a huge authority, this person could not not appear on the stage, even though how he tried to hide, he would leave traces,

But no matter how they investigated they could not discover the person,

“It’s not easy.”

Froaude nodded too,

“...It’s not easy to do, even if that weren’t the case, this country doesn’t have the time already, if we are still unable to handle the internal affairs...”

“...We will be engulfed by the external enemies...right, then in that case we need a bait, to pull out that person acting in the darkness...”

But what could they use as bait? They did not even know who their opponent was.

A noble left with power after the revolution... or was it not a noble?

Just as Miller was thinking Froaude was about to leave.

“...We’ll stop our conversation here, our common target is to pull on the shy person behind the scenes first, I will think of something too.”

Then he walked out of the room.

Then turning back as if he remembered something,

“What about the Ryner Lute problem? I think we should kill him immediately...”

To this question.

Miller remembered Germer’s face for a moment, when she knew that Ryner

Lute had died what expression would she reveal?

Thinking about this...

But.

Miller said without looking at Froaude's face,

"That's up to you."

"...Then I'll kill him."

Then the door closed.

A comfortable silence returned to the room.

"..."

Amidst the silence.

Miller opened the map in his thoughts again.

That was filled with malice.

The people who reached there would lose their hope and motivation to live.

A dark, depressing, black darkness enveloped the surroundings, although it was not known what black things the darkness was surrounding, but anyway all the maliciousness was gathered in the room of a castle that the devil lived

in.

In a simple office.

“...I’m dying, definitely dying.”

Ryner thought of this.

He would die here.

He could not take it already.

He could not take it.

Because, because...

It was impossible to work for three days straight through the night once he returned, I want to kill Sion that bastard, but because I do not even have the strength so I am dying, good bye!!

After shouting that in his heart, he glared at the Demon King Sion Astal who was working behind a pile of files,

“So, I’m dying.”

To this, Sion’s eyes did not leave his documents and laughed wryly.

“Hey hey, I heard that line 5 seconds ago.”

“This time it’s true”

“That tired?”

“Or I should say, if this continues I will probably really die?”

“So you want to sleep?”

“Eh.”

“No.”

“Eh?”

“No”

“That, I will really die like that...”

“No, if we work harder, I can end in around 4 hours or so, after I finish then we can sleep for 30 minutes or so...”

“Are you a foooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooool!”

Ryner could not help but shout,

And looked at Sion helplessly,

“You, you can’t possibly usually work like this without sleeping?”

Hearing this, Sion finally raised his head, and as if remembering something,

“...What is it, once I start working I will forget the time... But from now on I can pass some to Ryner, so it’s slightly more relaxed”

Saying that he laughed,

But Ryner looked at Sion with an expression as if seeing a national protected animal,

“...You are very happy, to be able to split your work with me? Then you have been doing twice the amount of work by yourself in the past?”

“Yes.”

He said it very simply.

“...”

Ryner was speechless.

Seeing the files before him.

And the abnormal number of documents on Sion’s table.

“...I seem to understand why your personality is so horrible...”

Having so much work every day would cause your personality to be warped right,

To this Sion smiled evilly,

“Then your personality will become worse.”

“Before that I will die.”

But Sion laughed confidently,

“You wouldn’t die so easily, from my experience it seems that it would take half a year or so to reach this state of almost dying if you sleep at every once in a while...”

“It can’t be!? You, you, don’t tell me you want me to not sleep for half a year...”

Something was wrong with his brain.

He felt that he was a workaholic since long ago, but he did not think that it would be this bad...

“Uuugh... I’m going to die, I will be killed here as expected...”

Ryner trembled because he was scared.

But Sion laughed happily.

“This... Of course it’s a lie? Not sleeping for half a year will cause people to die.”

“Y, yes! Of course!?”

“It should be no problem if it were 10 days or so...”

“This person’s brain has a proooooooooooblem as expected?”

Ryner cried.

But Sion laughed,

“Let’s stop the jokes here.”

“Where!? Where did the joke start from!?”

“Eh? Ah... From the part where we will rest for 30 minutes after 4 hours?
My work efficiency is dropping too, let's rest now.”

In a moment!

Ryner was treating Sion as a god for some reason.

Then he despaired.

He clearly made me work from day to night for 3 days, but in the end made me feel how kind he is.

What, what magic did this person use...

Ryner said with his whole body shaking uncontrollably,

“You, you're actually a demon right?”

But Sion said bluntly,

“Yes? You've just discovered that?”

“Ah... You're not rejecting it...”

“Since I have been discovered then I have no choice, alright, start working for me tirelessly for half a year from now on.”

“...Because I can't tell if that's a joke, so please don't be like that...”

Ryner said helplessly.

And looked at Sion who was seriously learning how to make a devil's face.

That tired face and blood-shot eyes.

That face really seemed like a demon.

So Ryner sighed,

“...If you continue working you will really die?”

Sion stopped making the demon's face, telling Ryner with a tired face,

“...Then if I die, will you help me and be the king?”

“...Me being a king?”

Ryner imagined himself being a king,

Every day being buried amongst the documents... working madly.

Not sleeping for a couple of days, eyes becoming blood-shot, working until his whole body was exhausted...

Ryner thought of this and looked at Sion who was completely exhausted,

“...”

Then he thought,

Did the others know of this side of the king who was said to be perfect and flawless?

He was clearly exhausted.

But he said this was not enough.

He said it was not enough, and the progress was not enough.

If they were attacked by other countries now would they be able to protect the citizens?

If an internal conflict occurred in the country would they be able to suppress it without having any sacrifices?

Was this country really progressing in the right direction?

It was not enough.

It was not enough.

Even more, even more, even more, even more.

“...I... can't do it.”

Ryner genuinely thought so.

Even if that were not the case, all this time he even complained that his own

matters were too much, only looking at himself, hurting others.

“...I am a lazy bum... I definitely can’t do it.”

But Sion said with a tired expression,

“...So that’s good.”

“In other words, I definitely do not want to be the king, it’s too troublesome.”

“Haha... It truly is troublesome, I don’t want to do it.”

“Don’t do it, don’t do it, let’s have afternoon naps every day.”

Sion laughed,

“...Having afternoon naps every day, that... that seems really blissful... will such a day really arrive?”

But he said that with a weak voice.

To this, Ryner...

He was speechless.

And he looked at the documents on his table.

The world situation surrounding Roland was written on it.

Lately it seemed like Nelpha’s movements were slightly strange.

Thinking that Roland that had absorbed the Estabul Kingdom had become dangerous and the Anti-Roland faction had raised a revolution.

The king had been changed too, the good relationship with Roland in the past had become a blank piece of paper.

It would not be strange if Nelpha attacked at any time.

But the present Roland did not have the power to fight with Nelpha, although its territory rivaled that of a large country because it absorbed the Estabul Kingdom, but the power of the Estabul Kingdom had not completely become Roland’s.

In other words, a revolution could be possible at any moment.

If they were attacked by Nelpha in this situation... Roland would be done with.

Although they had currently mistakenly thought that Roland was a large country, but if they were discovered then they would be attacked.

And this was not the only problem.

The movements of the other neighbouring Runa Empire were also slightly strange.

And there was the Gastark Empire in the northern continent that was using the **Heroes' Relics** to expand their influence.

And in response the other countries were enforcing their militaries now.

The world was going to change.

This, Ryner knew it too.

The world was about to enter a huge war that they had never seen before.

And Sion was fighting alone in this worst situation every day.

Not sleeping properly, for the country, for the citizens, was there any way to save the world with the smallest number of sacrifices?

Was, was there any way?

But.

The days of having afternoon naps every day...

But, Ryner.

“...It will come.”

He said that.

“It will definitely arrive, as long as you wait, there will be one day.”

Sion smiled.

“...Is that so, then... quickly...”

But his words stopped here,

It seemed that he was really tired, Sion sat in the chair and fell asleep.

To this Ryner,

“Hey, if you’re sleeping first then wouldn’t my resting time be shortened.”

There was no reaction to this sentence.

He slept while smiling.

Ryner looked at Sion’s sleeping face.

“...”

He hoped that the dreams that this person was having were happy ones.

Blissful dreams that had nothing to do with his surroundings and war.

Like... like...

“...Ah ah, I can’t take it, I’m already too tired that I can’t think...”

He thought.

But suddenly.

“...No, that document has to... Uugh.”

Sion said this in his sleep.

“...That idiot.”

Sion turned back.

And walked towards the chair Sion was sitting in,

“Don’t work in your dreams!”

He flipped the chair.

Of course Sion fell from the chair.

“?????”

Because he was woken up suddenly, so he did not know what was going on, and sat on the floor looking at Ryner dazedly.

“Ah? ... I... fell asleep?”

“Ah ah.”

“...Being woken up by you means... time has reached...”

“It hasn’t even been 5 minutes.”

“? Is that so?”

“Ah ah.”

Sion looked at Ryner uncomprehendingly.

“Then why did you wake me?”

“Because your face made me unhappy.”

“Unhappy?”

“Yes! So you should, ah, that, anyway... After you satisfy yourself with dirty books then you should sleep!”

“Huh? D, dirty books? W, why?”

“No reason! I am tired too and you made me worry... then I’m leaving! After I have slept enough to make up for these 3 days I will come and find you, don’t come and find me!”

“No, that... why is it dirty books... Why are you so angry...”

But Ryner ignored him and opened the door,

After leaving the office he found that the sunlight was glaring,

“...Don’t tell me, it’s already morning? I worked day to night for 4 days?

Dead, I'm going to die."

Saying that, Ryner left the office behind him.

"..."

That sun ray was too bright.

The sunlight shining on Roland.

The world that that gentle sunlight was shining on was a peaceful one.

An ideal perfect world.

There was a related record in Ryner Lute's report.

"A world where everyone can laugh and have afternoon naps."

"...Heh...Heh heh..."

It was too astounding,

It really was astounding,

A country where anyone would not be hurt.

A country where anyone would not lose anything.

"...There clearly have been a few people killed... Actually a country where anyone would lose not lose anything... It can't even be counted as a joke."

Miran Froaude said softly as he watched Ryner Lute's figure leaving.

And when he confirmed that he could not see him, he said to the door:

"...Are you going to let Ryner Lute live on like this? Your Majesty."

"..."

But there was no answer.

But he did not care.

Because no matter what Sion said, he had already decided to do it.

Froaude continued:

“...Actually you... hoped that Sergeant Luke Stokkart would kill him...”

This time he had a response.

“...Because if that were the case then Ryner would die because of my order?”

Just like that.

They had to do this to eliminate the naivety in Sion’s heart.

A country where anyone could live on laughing.

A country where anyone would not need to lose anything.

How sweet were those words?

If it were only taken as an ideal case, then that would be really good.

Just like a fairy-tale Empire in their dreams.

“Because of the **Hero King**, conflicts could disappear from the world, everyone could live on laughing...”

If this really could be done then it would be very easy.

But actually.

Actually.

“...People live in a world where humans eat humans.”

Froaude said.

If there were people who laughed then there would be people who cried.

If there were people who were protected then there would be people who were hurt.

From now on other countries had to disappear for the sake of Roland’s

existence.

He could not always immerse himself in naïve ideal thinking... in Ryner Lute.

And this was...

“...Your Majesty should be very clear on this.”

But the large trouble had other uses.

To Sion, the more important his existence was, the larger the effect would be when he was killed.

The completion of the king Sion Astal had to be done by killing Ryner.

A king who could move forward even if he engulfed darkness, engulfed people.

A king who could be called the ruler of the world, not hating sacrifices, not singing about ideal situations.

If he could kill Ryner Lute now.

“...”

No, it was already a little late, Gastark had already started moving,

If this continued this country would...

At this moment,

Sion's voice travelled out from inside the room,

“Are you going to kill Ryner?”

“Yes.”

“If I say I wouldn't allow it?”

“...Then after I kill him... I will accept my punishment.”

“You're not listening to my orders?”

“...I hope everything will be in compliance with my liege’s orders.”

“Then.”

But Froaude did not allow him to continue.

“And I trust that Your Majesty wishes to kill Ryner Lute.”

No, if this was not the case.

If he was unable to even make this kind of decisions, then there was no value in following him.

“...”

Froaude looked at the door and awaited his orders.

Kill Ryner Lute...

As long as he said that then he could immediately carry it out.

There were numerous reasons to kill him.

It was a huge offense for people with the knowledge of Roland’s magic to casually leave the country.

This was enough to deal him with the death penalty.

He was a bearer of **Alpha Stigma** was also enough to deal him with the death penalty.

They could not keep a monster that could go berserk at any moment by the king’s side.

Kill Ryner Lute.

As long as he said it, this country could then move.

Kill Ryner Lute, attack their allied country Runa, and then trample on Nelpha.

When they governed the southern continent...

But at this moment.

“...Don’t kill Ryner Lute.”

Froaude felt disappointed at this.

And it was to an extent that made him surprised, he had such high expectations for this king.

But.

“...Your Majesty... No matter what Your Majesty says...”

But he did not continue.

“Come in.”

Sion only said this,

“...”

Froaude did not answer.

Even so Sion still repeated,

“Didn’t you hear me? I told you to enter.”

His tone this time was more forceful than earlier.

“...”

At this, Froaude sighed and opened the door.

The room was filled with documents.

The table in the past had become two, it was probably for Ryner Lute.

For Ryner Lute.

“...”

He was annoyed with it, was he such a blind king...

Froaude raised his head.

He saw Sion.

In the depths of the room.

Standing with his head pressed against the wall.

He knocked his head several times against it lightly.

Froaude said after watching for a while.

“I have entered according to your orders.

Sion knocked his head again and stopped moving.

“...Do not kill Ryner Lute, this has already been decided. Do not interrupt.”

“...But.”

“Be quiet.”

“No, if this continues...”

But at this moment.

“Be quiet worm, if you continue speaking it will reveal your incapability.”

“...”

Froaude stopped.

It was not because he was told to be quiet.

Because he felt unsettled by Sion’s words.

Sion laughed softly,

“...What about killing Ryner Lute... You clearly know nothing, see nothing... Do you think that the world always revolves around the thin map that you have drawn?”

He looked here.

In that moment.

Froaude was unable to move.

Sharp eyes looked over here.

Sharp eyes.

In there.

“...”

His body started to tremble.

His body started to tremble.

This was...

But the man continued before him without caring for Froaude's thoughts.

Raising his hand high,

“...Alright, I'll let you see the light and dark and the truth, the truth about the world... and the true enemy.”

He reached his hand over here.

Froaude was unable to move.

It was only that his body was trembling.

It was only that his body was trembling.

But this was not because of fear.

It was joy.

Because **that** that had appeared before him was.

“...”

He was tired.

“...”

He was tired.

“Uugh...”

But he had many things to do despite being this tired.

So.

“I’m almost dying of dehydration...”

Being exposed to the sun, Ryner made a voice as if he were almost dying.

The place where he was battling with the sandman was the path from the capital to the districts.

Because it was very early, so there were no people.

Everyone was still sleeping.

“...And I haven’t slept at all!”

Just complaining about it would add on to his exhaustion, he was really almost reaching his limits, he should just sleep here...

But he could not collapse here.

Anyway he had to leave earlier, and reach a place where Sion and Ferris did not know of to live.

“...I can’t be bothered by them every day...”

He did not have to mention that he would die if he were bothered by them.

Every day he would work from day till night in the same room with a pervert who felt happy because of work, when he wanted to sleep he would be beaten by Ferris with her sword.

And in the end Ferris still,

“That traitor, saying that she’s tired of it, going back to eat dangos and sleep!”

And he did not have the time to show off.

There were really many things that had to be done.

Like the issue about his eyes.

He had to quickly research what was the difference with Arua’s eyes.

Ryner wanted to activate **Alpha Stigma** and opened his eyes wide, but because he was too tired he could not open them.

“I can’t do it, I’m too tired and I don’t have the strength... I’m so tired I want to puke... because I didn’t eat and I don’t have anything to vomit out...”

He could not take it already.

It was not strange if he collapsed any time.

But he still walked desperately.

And started to think what he had to do,

Apart from researching Arua’s **Alpha Stigma** there was the Eris Family...

He had to research on that disgusting room in the Eris Family.

And the meaning behind what Lucile said about “the blood that is cursed”...

“If Lucile himself told me then it would be faster...”

But at this moment Ryner remembered Lucile’s face,

The same abnormally beautiful face like Ferris, strangling Ryner’s neck with

a cold smile and saying,

“What impossible dream is the... ugly monster having?”

Asking him was a bit...

“...Lucile, that... I’ll push that back...”

Ryner said with a tired voice and thought,

*“...Then it’s that, I have to investigate the movements of the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes**...”*

He looked to the sky on his right tiredly.

North.

Tiir seemed to have said there was a colony of bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** living in the Central Continent in the distant north.

And further north would be the Gastark Empire that was expanding its influence, and heading south.

That meant that Roland which was in the most southern part of the continent was closer to the bearers of the Cursed Eyes than Gastark.

That also meant that to protect the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** from the Gastark Empire, then he had to allow Roland to be prepared to accept them, and find out where they were, and had to tell

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh the more he thought about it the more impossible it was!

*“And saying the bearers of the **Cursed Eyes** is too convoluted! The sun is too bright! And I’m tired! But I am hungry! And I want to vomit! I really want to cry!”*

He did not want to do it anymore.

He should just simply run away...

“...If Ferris heard that, I would definitely be killed this time...”

Thinking of Ferris's expression when she chased him to Nelpha.

At that time she was not angry but she was unsettled.

Ryner frowned.

“...I don't want to see that expression on her anymore... that means I have to be ordered around by her for the rest of my life? Ah... You're joking? As expected I am going to die soon.”

After returning to Roland nothing good had happened.

“And I am the elite that gained the title of ‘hating hard work and determination’? This me...”

In the end his head ached.

“...Why should I work so hard when I am lacking sleep...”

Ryner said lethargically.

And thinking of my life while walking where did I start to go wrong?

When I met Sion?

Or was it when I met Ferris,

Or was it even earlier, Master... when I was forcefully being trained by Germer?

Perhaps if I had left the country with Pia and Peria at that time then it would not have turned out like this,

Or if I had not left the country with Tiir, then I would not meet with Lafra, not see the world, not work hard, being depressed with everything and always escaping.

But.

Ryner had seen it.

The end of the despair.

Sion was laughing, Ferris was waiting there.

Reaching out to him.

And he wanted to grab that hand.

He clearly knew that once he grabbed it he could not turn back... because Ferris had revealed that sort of unsettled expression.

As if she needed me...

“...How troublesome”

Ryner sighed.

And looked in front.

The road.

He could probably reach the districts by walking on it.

But now it seemed like he was unable to pass through it.

And it was not because there was construction going on...

Ryner looked at the center of the road,

“...I really hate working hard?”

He said tiredly.

In front of him.

A man wearing the same outfit as Ryner was standing in the middle of the road.

A mixed outfit of white armour and clothing.

This was the armour that only the strongest combat unit in the Roland Empire, the Mage Knight Battalion was allowed to wear.

Although Ryner had took this from Sion only because it was good to use...

The man before him, no, because the person was covered with a black mask

so it could possibly be a woman, but anyway the person before him...

“...What does the Roland Mage Knight want with me?”

Ryner asked.

But.

“...”

The Mage Knight made no reply.

Ryner shrugged.

“There’s no need to reply, what a strong killing intent, are you here to kill me?”

“...”

But they still did not reply.

He smiled bitterly.

“Unless... there is a rule... in the recent Mage Knight Battalion that they cannot speak with people they do not recognize?”

“...”

There was still no response.

But they were still giving off a killing intent that could make people who had never received training faint.

Ryner only used his eyes to ascertain the surrounding situation.

And confirmed that there were no other people in their surroundings.

It seemed that there were no ambushing troops.

Although he was on an empty road where he had nowhere to hide.

And that meant that person came alone to attack him.

But if that was the case.

“...Do you think you can win me by yourself?”

“...”

They did not respond again.

Ryner gave up asking questions, it seemed that the other party had no intention to converse with him.

But he still understood a little.

At least the person who sent this Mage Knight was not clear about Ryner's affairs.

If he knew... then he should know that a Mage Knight coming alone by themselves was no problem to Ryner.

That meant...

“At least the one who wants to kill me isn't... Sion.”

Ryner was slightly reassured.

But who was it?

No, he heard that the Mage Knight Battalion was disbanded when Sion became king...

“Ah?”

Then this person was not a Mage Knight?

That meant.

Ryner glared at the Mage Knight... He did not know whether person in front of him was one or not.

“Who are you?”

He asked,

Finally the person in front of him said something.

A high-pitched annoying voice as if falling apart, and was hoarse.

“...Ryner Lute.”

“Ah ah? That is my name”

But once again he,

“...Ryner Lute.”

“So I said that is my name, who are you...”

But he hugged his head and interrupted Ryner.

“...Kill, kill, kill kill...Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh!?”

After making that disgusting noise, his body started to change.

The joints of his arms and legs bent in a direction that was opposite to the normal direction...

It bounced back.

In the next moment.

His hands reached out to grab Ryner’s head at an unimaginable speed.

“Oh!?”

Ryner turned his body to the side to avoid it.

But he was not able to avoid it completely.

The other party’s attack was faster than he thought.

His jaw was struck, he fell on the ground.

“Ugh... Damn it, I underestimated him...”

He wanted to stand up, but because his mind was jarred, his body did not listen to him.

“Oh, oh no.”

His knees trembled, although he wanted to press them and stand up.

But his fist flew towards his head at an extremely fast speed...

“Damn.”

Although Ryner wanted to dodge... but he could not.

He could not dodge.

And if it struck he would die.

“Aaaaah, then I’ll do this!!”

Ryner stepped forward, he did not use his head to receive, but his chest to receive his blow.

In a moment.

“...Crack...”

Ryner’s body was lifted up with the sound of a rib breaking.

He flew back.

But his blow did not stop.

He continued to attack.

Wanting to use a karate chop to hit here...

If he were struck he would die.

But Ryner’s mind was finally normal.

His body settled, the feeling from his four limbs had been recovered.

In a split second with no connection to his consciousness his body moved reflexively.

The physical arts that had once been forcefully instilled in him by Germer.

Twisting his body, reassuming a normal posture in the air.

Only using his shoulder to dodge the karate chop, and using both hands to grab the opponent’s neck, using his power in descending to squeeze it...

He woke up.

“Da...”

Like this he would kill...

But he could not stop.

The opponent's neck was broken by Ryner, the feeling of spine breaking passed through him...

“...”

It did not.

“...Eh?”

It was not only that, his neck was twisted in an odd direction as if he had no bones, and returned to normal.

“Huh!? Why? His neck was broken...”

But ignoring Ryner's surprise, he continued to use a karate chop to attack...

“W, wait.”

Ryner turned the breaking your neck into a throw, grabbing his head and throwing it into the distance.

At the same time, his black mask dropped off.

His face was revealed,

But his face...

“...Wh, what is that?”

That was not a human's,

Skin that was becoming slurry, pus appearing from it, eye balls that were about to drop out,

There was a black eye ball moving in the middle of that... and long canines

in his mouth.

A monster.

Just like its name, a monster.

But this...

“You, you...”

But who was this monster?

Why did he wear the armour of a Mage Knight?

Why did he attack Ryner?

There was no time to think.

Unlike his appearance, that monster was constructing a magical structure at a rapid pace.

“Hey hey, this time it is magic...”

Ryner started to construct a magical structure as well,

Just by seeing a bit of the magical structure the monster was constructing he knew what magic he wanted to use.

There was no need to use Alpha Stigma to see it.

This was the magic “**IZUCHI**” that Ryner was the best at.

“The magic to dispel that is...”

Ryner finished the magic at an extremely fast speed.

Faster than the monster and it was accurate.

Then Ryner looked at the monster and said.

“Too slow, you can’t win me as expected...”

But at the same time.

“The one who is slow is you, Ryner.”

A voice suddenly spoke from behind him.

Up until just now there had been no presences there.

There was no place to hide in their surroundings.

And it was a familiar voice.

Familiar.

A familiar...

But who was it?

He could not recall it.

But this voice makes my heart ache.

I know this voice.

But I cannot remember it.

I feel like I forgot something important...

But...what is it?

What, this is,

What is this...

“Who...?”

He wanted to turn back,

But after that,

A sound travelled from his chest...

Ryner stopped turning back and looked at the source of the sound,

A strange phenomenon had occurred,

His left chest,

Something that was like a dagger was stabbed in his heart,

“Ah...”

He could only make this slight noise,

In contrast, a large amount of red liquid flowed out from his chest,

This was clearly a mortal injury.

“...Ah.”

He could not speak.

Blood.

From his chest.

How.

After much difficulty I...

After much difficulty...

Then I.

I will die here...

I do not want to.

In this kind of place.

In this kind of place I want to...

“...”

But that was all.

He was unable to keep conscious.

Strength flowed out from his body.

His knees could not take it, unable to support his body.

Only a strong iciness and loneliness surrounded him.

Then,

“...”

Ryner’s life...disappeared.

The man gently stroked his black hair.

Slowly, slowly brushing his hair as if he were nostalgic.

And.

“Welcome back... Ryner.”

The man revealed a tired and warm smile as he spoke.